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Iraq

Opposition groups meeting in northern Iraq have established a "government" made up of the different factions attending, according to KUNA. At the end of the meeting representatives created a three-member Presidential Council, a 17-minister government, and a 174-member parliament. Members of the Presidential Council are Major General Hasan al-Naqib, a Sunni; Dr. Muhammad Bahr al-Ulum, a Shi'ite; and Masu'd al-Barzani, a Kurd. AFP reports that Shiite, Sunni, and non-Arab Kurdish opposition groups are scheduled to meet again on October 23 in the town of Irbil.

Libya

According to "well-informed sources," during Egyptian President Mubarak's visit to Libya "last month" al-Qadhdhafi reportedly said that "he was willing to fulfill all U.S. and Western demands" in return for ending the Lockerbie case "peacefully" and without "any military or economic measures," AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reports.

Iran-United Arab Emirates

A Foreign Ministry statement cited by IRNA charged that the United Arab Emirates, "abusing the goodwill and tolerance" of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stopped the process of the negotiations on the status of Abu Musa. Terming a UAE statement "hasty" and "against the interest of bilateral relations," Tehran reiterated its "unalterable policy" on Abu Musa, the agency reported. In the meantime, AFP reports that the United Arab Emirates plans to bring the dispute to the United Nations, according to UAE official sources. "We don't want any military confrontation with the Iranians. Our recourse now is the United Nations after Iran refused to go to the International Court of Justice," one source said.

Iran-Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry statement cited by IRNA charged that the Interim Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani told Tehran TV that his talks with Ayatollah Khamene'i and other "political and economic officials" were "very fruitful." President Hashemi-Rafsanjani agreed that the consultations were "a positive and useful step toward the expansion of cooperation," particularly in the area of reconstruction, Tehran TV noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Foreign Ministers Hold Coordination Meeting

NC2909112292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] New York, United Nations, 29 Sep (MENA)—The Arab foreign ministers held their annual coordination meeting here last night, chaired by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, on the sidelines of the 47th UN General Assembly meeting. The Arab ministers discussed the following six topics: Control of chemical and mass destruction weapons; Iran's occupation of Abu Musa Island; developments in the Middle East peace process; a review of the meeting of the Arab parties to the peace process (confrontation states); the problem in Somalia; and Arab-European contacts.

MENA has learned that the delegates focused on the need for their countries to be committed to Arab League resolutions and called for adopting a unified Arab stand in light of the resolutions endorsed during the recent Arab ministerial meeting in Cairo.

The Arab ministers listened to a report by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, about the outcome of the recent round of bilateral peace talks in Washington. Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir reviewed the results of the meeting of the confrontation states held yesterday afternoon, particularly with respect to the need to coordinate these states' views in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

An Arab source described all the participants' positions as positive. During the meeting, Musa praised the tangible Arab cohesion at yesterday's session and during the one in Cairo.

United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah submitted a report about his government's position on Iran's occupation of Abu Musa Island. He noted that the UAE is trying hard with the Iranian authorities to resolve the dispute peacefully. He stressed the need for a unified and permanent Arab position during the ongoing negotiations with Iran.

'Cordon States' Ministers Meet

JN2909182392 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The foreign ministers of the cordon states [duwal al- tawq], Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister; Dr. Kamil Abu- Jabir, Jordanian foreign minister; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department; and Suhayl Shammas, director general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, met yesterday afternoon at the UN headquarters in New York. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa took part in the meeting.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the peace process and evaluated the sixth round of the bilateral talks, which ended recently in Washington.

The attendees praised the Syrian position during that round, proceeding from the Arab side's commitment to the bases and principles contained in the Damascus statement issued on 25 July 1992, and the emphasis on a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The foreign ministers agreed to hold a coordination meeting prior to the seventh round of the peace talks in Washington during the second half of October.

The Arab foreign ministers also held a meeting yesterday at the UN headquarters in New York, chaired by 'Amr Musa, since Egypt chairs the current session of the Arab League Council. During the meeting, the ministers discussed several items on the agenda of the 47th session of the United Nations, primarily the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

When reviewing and evaluating the last session of the bilateral peace talks held in Washington, Faruq Qaddumi praised the Syrian position, which was based on the comprehensiveness of the solution and the desire to achieve full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, as well as guaranteeing the national rights of the Palestinian people.

At the end of the meeting, the head of the Arab group highly valued Syria's speech, which was delivered by Faruq al-Shar' at the General Assembly, saying the speech clearly reflected the Arab position to achieve a just and comprehensive peace for the Arab- Israeli conflict on the basis of the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

'Amr Musa praised the Syrian speech's explanation of the Arab position toward the disarmament question, especially with regard to establishing a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East under international supervision and under the auspices of the United Nations.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also received Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the bilateral talks, and several members of the Syrian delegation. He listened from them to a report on the proceedings of the last round of talks, held in Washington on 24 August-24 September.

Arab Maghreb Union Summit Meeting Postponed

LD2509081892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] The next summit meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Presidency Council has been postponed, announced AMU Secretary General Mohamed Amamou, who told the Moroccan daily AL-MITHAK AL-WATANI that the date would be rescheduled after consultations between the leaders of the AMU member states.

Amamou added that he considered the Western Sahara issue as the main issue standing in the way of the

Maghreb action for the past 15 years. He added that this issue was heading toward a settlement in accordance with the peace plan.

In the context of the efforts aimed at preparing the implementation of this UN peace plan, Belgian Colonel Andre Van Baelen, the new interim commander of the MINURSO [UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] mission, arrived in Laayoun, in the Western Sahara, yesterday. He is replacing the Peruvian Luis Block Urban at the head of the UN peacekeeping force in charge of supervising the preparations of the referendum in the Western Sahara.

ICO Secretary General Algabid Reelected

LD2609185492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, 24 Sep (SPA)—In their annual coordination meeting that was held in New York early this morning, the foreign ministers of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] member states reelected Hamid Algabid as ICO secretary general for another four-year term starting 31 December 1992.

The foreign ministers also decided that their next meeting will be held in Pakistan instead of Sudan.

MENA reported that the foreign ministers also decided, in cooperation with the UN, to call for an international conference to solve the Somalian problem.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Dissolution,' Alternative Structures Seen

JN2909055492 Al-Shariqah AL-SHURUQ in Arabic 24-30 Sep 92 pp 14-18

[Unattributed article: "Will the PLO be Dissolved?"]

[Text] Amman—Exclusive—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, is a very unusual and controversial figure. He is in charge of the "pan-Arab action" department of the PLO. However, he works in a completely different area. He has wide contacts with Jewish circles inside and outside "Israel." On all occasions when he has been forced to make difficult decisions, he acted in accordance with the equation of the Palestinian-Israeli solution. In fact, he has announced on many occasions that the Palestinians' interest lies in not "shackling" themselves to an Arab equation that would produce a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis as a whole.

No matter what has been said about Abu-Mazin, he has worked to reinforce understanding with "the Jews" proceeding from the fact that the general Arab situation would ultimately result in wasting time and would not add any essential realities to the Palestinian stand. At every turning point, therefore, he has called for accepting the solutions presented by "Israel." Those who know him say that his frankness is amazing. He always says: "We cannot obtain more than this."

When the Arab-Israeli talks began in Madrid on 31 October, Abu-Mazin felt that his opinion had eventually triumphed. Consequently, he strengthened his position in the first level of "the settlement leadership." It was natural for the leadership to charge him with following up the talks, or rather, to find links between the public negotiating sessions on the one hand and the Palestinian leadership and "Israel" on the other. This would help in solving problems that prove difficult for the negotiators and in saving and making the most of time. An incident took place which could have prompted the Palestinian official to remove his hands completely from the negotiations, and consequently would have resulted in the loss of the "smart" postman between 'Arafat and Israeli officials, who use Cairo as their liaison point.

In February, Abu-Mazin became angry and left Tunis to isolate himself for almost one month in Rabat. Paradoxically, he accused the leadership of inflexibility, of attempting to play games, and of going back on the promises it made to Washington. In brief, the story was that the PLO tried to go to the opening session of the multilateral talks in Moscow in January with a joint delegation representing both the inside and the outside [of the occupied territories]. Israel, however, protested and the delegation remained outside the hall and did not attend the session. Abu-Mazin thought the move was a maneuver by 'Arafat to please Syria, which did not attend, and to present himself as the actual negotiator whereas the U.S. letter of assurances to the Palestinians was clear in that regard. The letter says the delegation that negotiates the "transitional phase" will be from inside—meaning from the West Bank and Gaza—and that the Palestinians outside the occupied territories "should be able to participate in the negotiations on the final phase."

The Return

Abu-Mazin went back to take charge of the "dossier" in March. Since then, he has been moving quickly between Cairo, Tunis, the Gulf, and Moscow, holding meetings with decisionmakers. In particular, he intensified his contacts with the "Israelis" during the recent elections and after the government was formed. Meanwhile, he did not make many statements. When he spoke, he sounded different from the chorus which spoke of self-determination, the establishment of the state with Jerusalem as its capital, the removal of settlements, and the other rosy dreams dreamed on a bed of flowers. Finally, Abu-Mazin spoke in Moscow to say that the Palestinian and the "Israeli" plans agree on 80 percent of the points and that the aim of negotiations is not Palestinian "sovereignty," but complete self-rule.

This statement came as a shock to many Palestinian quarters, particularly to the public, which sleeps and wakes up on statements made by 'Arafat and those close to him ('Abdallah Hurani, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and

Bassam Abu-Sharif) talking about differences over Jerusalem, self-determination, and sovereignty. The question is: Doesn't Abu-Mazin want sovereignty or Jerusalem? Or, was he merely speaking with his known frankness about the actual atmosphere of the negotiations? What does his statement about complete self-rule mean? Is what is on offer only incomplete self-rule.

These queries, which were raised by Abu-Mazin, were taken by AL-SHURUQ to a high-level Palestinian source, who said that Abu-Mazin is the only one from the PLO leadership and the Fatah Movement who faithfully reflected what has been happening so far. Abu-Mazin keeps saying in his private meetings: "I prefer to hear Palestinians say that I am a traitor rather than hear them say that I deceived them and promised them a state but only achieved self-rule for them."

The source added: "That is why he is the only one who does not think of the negotiations as a clever game and deception of the opponent, because its outcome is known in advance. What the Palestinians have agreed to in the U.S. letter of assurances and the text of the Madrid invitation is being applied verbatim. Everything else is no more than details or oral promises which were often misunderstood and mistranslated."

The sources related two relevant incidents in this context. The first took place during the fifth round of the bilateral negotiations in Washington last May between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations. It happened that the Palestinian delegation withdrew from a meeting and chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "The Israelis are taking us lightly." After the U.S. "sponsor" intervened, the two delegations went back to the meeting hall. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, had prepared a file about the letters of assurances and the Madrid invitation and presented it to 'Abd-al-Shafi, telling him in Arabic: "Read this, dear 'Abd-al-Shafi. Have you not signed this? Why do you want me to give you more than that? We are negotiating on this basis; that is, administrative self-rule only."

The source said that 'Abd-al-Shafi did not know how to answer because the Israeli evidence was conclusive, and the problem was not in the Israelis' evasion, but the Palestinian signature, which agreed to the negotiations on this basis.

The second incident also occured in Washington several months before the opening of the Madrid conference, sometime between the fourth and fifth tours of the then Secretary of State James Baker. James Baker received at his office in the State Department Faysal al-Husayni, who was sent by the PLO leadership to obtain an official U.S. reply on the fate of the occupied Arab territories after the transitional period. Baker's reply was: "You are a good and civilized people. But, frankly, the current balances of power do not give you more than self-rule."

Dissolving the PLO

The source comments on these two incidents by saying that they both categorically confirm that the prospect for the post-self-rule era is closed and that no views in that regard have been offered by either the U.S. or "Israeli" sides.

Here, the source moved to explain the meaning of Abu-Mazin's phrase "complete self-rule." He says the letters of assurances, the letters of invitation, and the current negotiations revolve around an administrative self-rule, according to which powers will be transferred to an elected Palestinian administrative council, which does not have the power to legislate or issue laws because it is not independent, but is authorized by the occupation authorities despite the fact that it obtains its legitimacy from the fact that it is elected.

The source explains that the idea of complete self-rule means that the administrative self-rule should be replaced by another form in which the Palestinians would enjoy the "political rights" mentioned in the letters of assurances and the letters of invitation. This means the establishment of an entity independent in its political and economic aspects, but subordinate in its military and defense aspects. This is the complete self-rule which, with some minor differences, resembles many similar formulas in the world.

Thus, one can explain "Abu-Mazin's" statement which failed to mention sovereignty and spoke of agreement over 80 percent of the points, and the remaining 20 percent which can be discussed in constant negotiations. For that reason, there was no mention of the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation because the idea of the independent Palestinian entity is out of question.

Regarding the later participation by the Palestinians from outside in the negotiations, the source says this will take place in the next phase, which comes three years after the transitional phase, but the PLO will not necessarily participate. Also, participants from outside will not be concerned with self- determination for the land and people inside because those who are charged with negotiations on this issue are from inside.

The source adds that one of the most important issues for the Palestinians from outside in the later negotiations is the subject of Palestinian refugees in the Arab countries and the rest of the world. The source says the PLO will most likely deal with that issue. He, however, rules out the possibility that the PLO will continue to exist in its current structure. With the formation of the "self-rule" government, the PLO's traditional role will directly change and will not be limited to the Palestinians of the diaspora only. High-ranking Palestinian quarters are making predictions and assessments of the future which the PLO may follow. It will most probably dissolve itself and announce another structure under the name "The Repatriation Committee" [lajnat al-'awdah] or "The Palestinian Repatriation Commission" [hay'at al-'awdah al- filastiniyah]

The source also explained that some leaders have begun to sense this. Hence, differences—some of which are silent, while others are being discussed in offices in Tunis, Amman, and the occupied territories—are taking place over the issue of sharing the inheritance, which was the subject of a great deal of talk after the Palestinian president announced his marriage to Suha al-Tawil early this year. Some members of the leadership say that part of the Fatah Movement's money is deposited in his personal account, and that after his marriage, he should transfer that money and the property registered in his name to the movement to avoid any misunderstandings.

According to the Palestinian source, the last meeting of the Fatah Movement witnessed a heated discussion between 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin, who is a member of a financial committee, after 'Arafat declared that he was a "billionaire" when he came to Fatah and that nobody should discuss financial issues with him. This was objected to by Abu-Mahir [Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym] and Abu-al-Mundhir [Subhi Abu-Karsh], members of the PLO Central Council.

The Palestinian source then explained the dissolution of the organization's organs abroad, its impact on the internal affairs, and its connection with the current peace steps. He also portrayed a very pessimistic picture. He talked about Abu-al-Tayyib [Muhammad al-Natur], commander of "Force 17," which was known in Lebanon as a special force for protecting 'Arafat. The force was managed by Abu-Hasan Salamah, who was assassinated in a car bomb arranged by "Mosad" on Fardan Street in 1988. He was succeeded by Abu-al-Tayyib and Rasim al-Ghul, who was killed in Sidon two years ago.

The nature of the mission of "Force 17" changed after the departure from Beirut in 1982. 'Arafat then chose a group of the force and called it the chairman's security force. The rest of the organ remained under the supervision of Abu-al-Tayyib, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. In order to avoid idleness within the organ, Abu-al-Tayyib began looking for work for it. He sent groups to southern Lebanon to reinforce protection of the camps, but he devoted most of his time to operations inside the occupied Palestinian territories. During the rise of the "intifadah" he managed to lay a strong groundwork and carry out many operations. This continued until 'Arafat recently announced the final dissolution of the organ. To begin with, this appeared to be related to the police force that would be established to maintain security of the "self-rule," whose nucleus would be formed from Force 17. But the reverse is true. The organization's organs abroad, including those which adopted armed struggle against Israel, have been reduced. This was confirmed by Israel itself. The armed operations, which will become more embarrassing when the Palestinians assume responsibility for security, were halted.

The source noted that the issue goes beyond halting armed operations against "Israel" to a gradual cessation of the intifadah. This is an Israeli demand and condition for launching the self-rule. The opinion is that those who oppose stopping the intifadah will be the target of the future Palestinian police. This was reiterated by Faysal al-Husayni in some statements. Therefore, efforts are being made to avoid a large jolt that would result in a civil war among the Palestinians. To mitigate the repercussions of this, efforts should be made first within the organizational and political organs of the Fatah Movement.

The source added that an "Israeli"-Palestinian understanding was reached to launch measures aimed at building confidence. This endeavor was led by Sari Nusaybah, professor of philosophy at Bir Zayt University and chairman of the PLO-affiliated "Strategic Studies Center" in Jerusalem. This endeavor was made through what are being known as "the political committees" which were formed in the wake of the Madrid conference. These committees have extended their activities throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. The committees are being administered through five public offices that were opened with the approval of the Israeli authorities.

The Committees—the State of Affairs

The question is: What are the tasks given to these committees? Why did they speak about them when they were first announced, and why did their supervisor later begin to shroud their activities with secrecy?

The Palestinian source said that "the political committees" were first announced as a Palestinian structure whose objective is to back the Palestinian negotiators and to prepare Palestinian public opinion to accept the stage of "peace" with "Israel" which would begin with "self-rule." Therefore, the first public step for these committees was that they took to the streets and distributed olive branches to the Israeli soldiers as an expression of the Palestinians' eagerness for peace. That was the formal task. Essentially, however, the objective was to adjust the Palestinian citizen to the presence of this army, whose mission will change from direct occupation to a permanent strategic occupation defined by bilateral agreements.

The source added that the basic task of "the committees" is to carry out an organized washout of Palestinian memory which passed through the stage of occupation in preparation for the new situation in which confrontations will be replaced by either a self-rule or "binational" state on the land of Palestine. This state will have "a political apparatus that addresses both nations," as expressed by the young philosopher Sari Nusaybah who entered the struggle suddenly on the recommendation of Abu-'Ammar. Nusaybah's university colleagues in England said he was not involved with any activities. They added he was not even a member of "the Palestine Student Federation."

The source emphasizes that Nusaybah made large strides toward accomplishing the mission of the "committees."

The five offices run by him have turned into brainwashing and normalization centers. Directly financed by the PLO, these offices are now seeking to replace the Fatah Movement in the territories through a number of axes. The aim is to gradually dissolve the Movement and reshape it politically and organizationally according to the new situation.

The source said Nusaybah's offices began work within the circles of ex-prisoners and intifadah activists who are wanted by the occupation authorities for playing leading roles or participating in armed confrontations. The offices' work focuses on convincing the "ex-prisoners" to forget the past and turn over a new leaf and to proceed toward building a private life because engaging in negotiations is the safest option "even if it leads to the Palestinian people's acquisition of only a straw," as stated by Nusaybah. Consequently, the method or mood of "destructive rejection" called for by other forces in the arena of Palestinian action, be they "Islamic" or "leftist," must be abandoned.

Nusaybah is expanding his activities from ex-prisoners, who are being lured under the pressure of living needs, to the intifadah activists, who consist of armed groups belonging first of all to the Fatah Movement. These groups number about 4,000 and have thus far refused to heed Nusaybah's implicit and explicit calls for an end to the intifadah. These groups have even escalated their confrontation of the occupation forces and settlers. Because Nusaybah is a pioneer of autonomy, he is authorized by the PLO and Israel to lure those youths to "repentance." Any person prosecuted or wanted by the occupation authorities can simply go to Nusaybah's offices and join the committees in order to get the "immunity" that prevents the occupation authorities from arresting him.

The source said that this pyramid-like structure, which is being built by Nusaybah, is the practical alternative to the militant political situation which has been prevailing in the occupied Palestinian territory since 1967. In all this, Sari Nusaybah is no more than a front, because the game is far bigger than him and bypasses his family ties—the Nusaybah family is known for its historical ties with Jordan—as well as his personal ambition. It is an "Israeli"-American- Palestinian understanding that is followed up by Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Nusaybah is no more than a liaison officer.

Concluding, the Palestinian source said that this understanding will most likely succeed because it possesses all factors of success in terms of money, power, and new international circumstances. However, this understanding does not necessarily guarantee a share for the PLO or a role other than the secret role which it is now playing. The source noted that some members of the PLO leadership imagined that establishing "Nusaybah" secret offices would guarantee their right to become leaders inside the occupied territory. This issue is viewed as taboo by "Israel" and the United States, which have been dealing with these realities as duties that should be performed by the Palestinians within the context of "confidence building." When this is accomplished, there will be no guarantee that the PLO leadership will acquire any special gain. On the contrary, this would help in dividing it outside the occupied territory and in swiftly fragmenting it.

The source believes that the real danger is in deepening the differences outside the occupied territory and by turning them from differences over the concept of settlement to a conflict over interests and influence. This will result in liquidations that would reach the surviving symbols. This has been the objective of "Israel" since the establishment of the PLO in order to show that it is a movement made up of gangs of outlaws and that time has come for their leaders to liquidate each other, now that a solution has been found to the situation inside the occupied territory on which they "relied" as leaders living outside the occupied territory.

'Ashrawi Discusses Arab-Israeli Peace Talks

NC3009093692 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Good morning Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi.
['Ashrawi] Good morning.

[Husayn] Dr. Hanan, now that the sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks is over and preparations for the seventh round are underway, we would like to evaluate the results of the sixth round with Your Excellency.
['Ashrawi] The sixth round was more exploratory than oriented toward achievement, which means that we did not get to the nuts and bolts or draw up any agreement. This was the first round of talks following the election of the new Israeli Government. This government was expected to present a new program or negotiating position. This phase was to explore the basic change in the Israeli position and the plans the Israelis would pursue in the negotiations. The Palestinian side continued to raise the same issues—that of the transitional phase and the election of the legislative council and its powers over the land, the water, and the people too. This is followed by a transitional phase. [sentence as heard]

We also wanted to define the principles and rules guiding this process [marji'iyat hadhihi al-masirah wa ususiha] so that the Israeli side could not manipulate the process, change the rules of the game, or propose any issues or ideas that conflict with these rules and framework.

[Husayn] Dr. Hanan, we are talking about two issues. One is the elected council and its nature and the other is Jerusalem. What happened with these two issues during the sixth round?

['Ashrawi] We presented the Palestinian (?perspective) and stand—non-negotiable on what concerns Jerusalem, because Jerusalem is at the heart of the Palestinian issue and we cannot accept its exclusion from the negotiations or any transitional solution that may be reached.

The Israeli side tried to exclude Jerusalem and postpone the topic until the final phase of the talks. We announced our position, which is that Jerusalem is a basic issue and should be subjected to the same rules as the rest of the occupied territories. Jerusalem is subject to the guiding principles [marji'iyat] contained in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to the principle of exchanging land for peace, which applies to all the occupied territories. No topic, particularly Jerusalem, should be excluded from the talks. No progress has been made about that issue, but we believe we can make progress on it through various proposals.

As for the legislative and administrative council, the Israeli side proposes an administrative council, and we insist that the elected council have legislative, judicial, and executive powers. The council will be elected by the people. It should legislate, answer to the people, and be the source of power, because we need to change the legal situation in the occupied territories, where Israel is the current source of authority and legislation.

[Husayn] Dr. 'Ashrawi, there have been reports that the Palestinians presented a working paper to the Israeli side that will respond to the points raised in that paper during the seventh round of the talks on 21 October. Can you tell us about this paper?
['Ashrawi] We presented several papers to the Israeli side, including the framework project or agreement [mashru' al-'itar aw ittifaqiyat al-itar] that defines the basis on which the negotiations are conducted and also the agenda for the talks. We also presented an amended agenda at the end of the last session.

We raised several issues concerning the judicial situation, human rights, and the principles guiding the talks and underlined the commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 242. This means that the principle of withdrawal must be accepted from now and linked with the two phases—the first and second [of Palestinian self-rule]. We also raised the issue of land—that the Palestinian interim self-government [al-hukumah al-dhatiyah al-intiqaliyah al-filastiniyah] should have powers over the land and not just the people.

We raised other issues on which we need to reach agreement with the Israeli side. The Israelis received our proposals on the agenda for the talks as well as the objectives, dimensions, and guiding principles of the process and negotiations.

[Husayn] Dr. 'Ashrawi, the coming round of talks is scheduled for 21 October. What do you expect to happen in that session? Do you expect it to be a decisive round?
['Ashrawi] Yes. I expect this session to show whether there is an intention to genuinely address the requisites of the negotiating process and the peace process. At the end of this sixth round it became clear that there is a possibility of some change occurring in the inflexible Israeli position. The Palestinian position was firm, unwavering, and committed to the principles guiding the talks, while the Israelis dodged the real issue. The Israeli side must see that to achieve any tangible progress there must be a realistic, practical, and positive dialogue in the coming phase, which I believe will decisively define the future course of the talks.

[Husayn] Dr. 'Ashrawi, one last question: Are there any points or remarks or specific issues that Your Excellency wishes to convey to listeners of the Voice of the Arabs, be they Palestinians or other Arabs?
['Ashrawi] We should not expect any speedy achievement or any scrambling by the Palestinian side for the crumbs left by Israel. We are facing a hard, complex, and difficult process and must remain patient and firm in this political battle. We should not expect miracles overnight. Results can only be achieved through patience, perseverance, and tireless and precise work. This is a sensitive and critical phase, and any step we take now will affect our future. We must be firm and give every support to the Palestinian position. We are going through a process that will shape this nation's future.

[Husayn] Thank you.
['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

'Arafat Adviser Comments on Peace Talks

NC3009085792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0724 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo last night after a visit to Canada and the United States, during which he met senior Canadian officials and delivered two lectures on the peace process.

Sha'th said the Israeli delegation to the peace talks in Washington tried to pressure the Palestinians by stating that Israel would try to succeed with the Syrian party but not in the Palestinian arena. He said this position did not worry us, because we believe that any achievement or Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights would constitute a Palestinian gain. He added that Syria is committed to a comprehensive solution.

Sha'th said that the Palestinian delegation to the talks did not go back on Security Council Resolution 242, noting that the Palestinians requested the U.S. cosponsor to intercede to emphasize that this resolution is a guiding principle. He pointed out that in the last three weeks of the negotiations, Israel tried to exclude Jerusalem and refused to discuss water, land, settlements, or the geographic framework. He said it is inadmissible for the Israeli party to exclude these issues or to take any measures that would make it difficult to fully implement Resolution 242. He noted that the announcement on continuing a new round of peace talks beginning in October and continuing through the U.S. election means that the two U.S. political parties are committed to continuing the peace talks, whatever the election result.

Algeria

Monitoring Group Reports Release of Detainees

LD2709204292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] The National Human Rights Monitoring Group has announced that 1,200 detainees have been released since the Higher State Council's 8 August decision to close security centers. The group's chairman said 4,000 people are still under administrative arrest, and pointed out that the release of detainees or their referral to the courts will continue until the final closing of the security centers, in accordance with the Higher State Council's decision of 8 August.

The chairman warned that 10 of those released have gone underground, thus leaving their families without any information about them. He categorically denied rumors of torture at the security centers as had been mentioned by clandestine leaflets and correspondence from unknown sources.

Delegations from the National Human Rights Monitoring Group will visit the security centers at In Salah and In Amguel to familiarize themselves with the conditions there.

Magazine Suspended for 'Defamation'

LD2909075992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The Interior and Local Communities Ministry yesterday decided to suspend publication of the fortnightly magazine A-LA-UNE from 28 September 92.

The ministry's statement points out that the suspension is due to the magazine's publication of dangerous articles which defame the dignity of the armed and security forces, and infringe on national unity.

In addition to suspending the publication of this magazine, the magazine's officials will be charged with defamation by the courts.

It is worth mentioning that the A-LA-UNE magazine, is a fortnightly magazine which is published in French and specializes in republishing some foreign newspapers' comments and analyses.

Diplomatic Ties With Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia

LD2809215392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Today the Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated Algeria's position with respect to the changes taking place in the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He affirmed that Algeria has taken the necessary measures to establish diplomatic links at the ambassadorial level with the independent republics of Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Hercegovina on the basis of respect, the principles of international law, and the UN Charter.

Egypt

Al-Baz on 'Very Unfortunate' Iran-UAE Talks

NC3009111992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1001 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, today described as "very unfortunate" the failure of the talks in Abu Dhabi between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran on Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek.

Al-Baz said Egypt called on Iran to show seriousness and flexibility in dealing with the legitimate UAE demand. He added: Iran's indifference to reaching a cordial and acceptable settlement with the UAE may lead to the situation worsening.

Al-Baz said Egypt supports the UAE position, not just because of Arab solidarity but because the UAE position rests on a legitimate foundation. The UAE, he added, does not wish to attack anyone or snatch something that does not belong to it. It is acting within its legitimate and normal right to safeguard its land, territorial water, and natural resources.

Dr. al-Baz concluded by expressing the hope that Iran will reconsider its position to avoid the situation worsening.

Sidqi, UAE Official Review Ties, Investment

NC2909162692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi met with Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Qasimi, personal representative of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], in his office today. Dr. Sidqi said after the meeting that both sides reviewed the overall bilateral ties and prospects for UAE investment in Egypt, especially in the fields of land reclamation and touristic projects. Finance Minister Muhammad al-Razzaz and the UAE charge d'affaires in Cairo attended the meeting.

'Arafat Leaves Cairo After Visit 29 Sep

NC2909095792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo at noon today after a three-day visit to Egypt, during which he met President Husni Mubarak. He was seen off at the airport by Dr. Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for military production.

Musa Meets With Acting U.S. Secretary of State

NC2909183492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1611 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Washington, 29 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held talks today with Lawrence Eagleburger, acting U.S. secretary of state, about the Middle East peace process, security in the Gulf, bilateral relations, and a number of other regional and international issues.

Diplomatic sources in Washington described the talks as extremely important, especially as far as the peace process is concerned. The parties to the peace talks expect Egypt to play a particular role to push the negotiations toward a peaceful settlement.

The sources pointed out that Musa's talks with the acting U.S. secretary of state come at a sensitive stage of the bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel. So far, there have been six rounds of talks without a tangible progress. A seventh round is scheduled for 21 October.

In another development, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said Egypt has begun introducing a fundamental change in its economy after long years of central economic administration. A strong foundation is now being laid for a productive society where the forces of the market play a major role, he said, adding that creativity, initiative, and private enterprise will prosper under the new system.

But in a speech at a luncheon held in his honor by the Egyptian- American Chamber of Commerce today, Musa pointed out that the road to economic reform in Egypt was not easy or paved due to the effects of long years of a central economy. Nevertheless, he said, there is determination to continue reforms regardless of the difficulties, which particularly affect low-income Egyptians. He noted that the difficulties include, for example, a 30 percent drop in real income and an unemployment rate as high as 16 percent. [passage omitted]

Musa Addresses UN General Assembly 25 Sep

NC2609122192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Sep 92

["Text" of speech by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa delivered at the UN General Assembly in New York on 25 September]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The text of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's speech at the UN General Assembly follows:

Mr. President, I would like at the beginning of my speech to express my personal congratulations and the congratulations of my government to you and to your friendly country for your election to this distinguished position, confident that you will be successful in carrying out your serious responsibilities during this loaded session.

I would like on this occasion to register the appreciation of Egypt's delegation and my own appreciation for the wise management of outgoing General Assembly President Ambassador Samir al-Shihabi, the representative of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who carried out his duties with efficiency and competence.

I also would like to extend congratulations to the states that joined the international organization, hoping that their participation will be effective and constructive regarding UN activities and defending the principles of the charter and its objectives.

Mr. President, this session, like previous and future ones, is extremely important, as it is being held during a period of dynamism and unprecedented, fast-breaking developments and changes. It is, in any case, a transitional period in which new forms of international relations are being established; therefore, what this session is witnessing is not a stable international situation but part of a process of continuous development, making it difficult to confidently predict the future of the world and its system in the coming years and decades. This uninterrupted process of change, however, demands emphasis on several matters that, in our opinion, are tantamount to fundamentals that must determine the shape of the future.

The change process must be humanitarian in context. No progress can be made and no civilization developed unless man's freedom, rights, and dignities are respected with discrimination based on color or religion and unless people's rights, cultures, and achievements are respected and their just demands met.

International cooperation and interdependency on just and fair basis are the foundation for healthy development and a positive approach to the future. International security and peace under the existing challenges are collective responsibilities, the burden and commitments of which should be borne by everyone, North and South. Everyone also should share in the benefits of such security and peace. In this regard, there is no doubt that the growing role of the UN Security Council demands reviewing the size of its membership and the scope of its responsibilities so that it can honestly reflect international and regional forces.

International relations, in its new concept, must be integrated in strength, reasonable in context, and democratic in framework; therefore, shaping these relations demands collective participation so these relations express the interests of the international community with its various elements and reflect a balance between rights and duties and integration between authorities and responsibilities.

Mr. President, undoubtedly international relations, in their current course of development, reflect a deeper awareness and wider understanding of the intertwining of the future and destiny, just as they reflect firm movement toward dealing with the current difficult problems. But they have not succeeded in removing the

elements of doubt and feelings of desperation among many countries, especially Third World countries. In many cases, they even lead to intensifying these feelings in many places and on various levels.

Though the seeds of change point to confining military confrontation on the international level, they have, on the other hand, highlighted inherited remnants of regional and racial tensions. Although they have proposed new forms of balancing power, such as multiple polarity, they have changed the equation of competition between East and West to another equation, the formulation of which has not yet been concluded between North and South. They have not addressed—nor do they seem intent on wisely addressing—the huge historic imbalance between the regions of abundance and those of scarcity, the regions of progress and those of backwardness. There is a real fear that the current process of change, if it takes place without any previously agreed upon conditions, could lead to codifying this imbalance so that it becomes a feature of the new world order, including all the disturbance and chaos that this would lead to.

These are glimpses of the world today and signs of the world to come. They reflect serious fears about controlling injustice and inequality in political, security, social, and international relations.

After this introduction, ladies and gentlemen, which reflects the sentiments of the Third World, the Egyptian delegation wishes to discuss in its address to this round today four topics. These are: The situation in the United Nations and the Third World, disarmament, and peace efforts in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

One of the most important elements in forming the new age is making the UN Charter's objectives a basis for this formation so that we become competent and able to guarantee justice, strengthen social progress, and raise standards of living in a broader atmosphere of freedom, as the secretary general said in his peace plan, which, in our opinion, is the true essence of positive development. It also is the true essence of an international order is concerned about stability and aims at establishing peace.

But the objectives of the charter cannot be realized and the great desire for securing justice and bolstering social progress and economic advancement cannot be realized in an age in which, once again, sharp racial manifestations are rising and dangers are threatening some societies, revealing signs of foreign intervention in the affairs of countries and peoples.

Therefore, topping the basic goals the secretary general concentrated on in his plan was confronting—in the broader sense of the word—the deepest causes of tension; that is, economic deficits and social injustice. Treating this deficiency should constitute the cornerstone of the new world order. Proceeding from this, I wish to point out with great interest a statement the secretary general made that nearly went without being given due consideration and appreciation. This statement was: "It is possible to notice a joint moral understanding that is increasingly emerging among the peoples and nations of the world. It expresses itself in international laws, many of which are formulated thanks to UN efforts".

We believe this statement gives one reason to pause. We truly need a joint moral understanding. The world suffered from the policies of racial discrimination for many decades until the time came to eliminate them. Just then, other racial disputes cropped up and calls for racial purity were made. This confirms that the world still lacks a solid joint moral understanding or correct and healthy development, which should be based on an agreement among our various societies stemming from all the political experiments we have witnessed since World War II, an analysis of what has been realized and what has not, and whether the applicable documents on human rights have performed their role, or whether the time has come to develop and change them.

Mr. President, we need a new world social contract to which the various world societies, cultures, and civilizations would be parties—one that does not follow a single example, even if successful, but relies on the rules on which an understanding will be reached and which consider the characteristics of the various communities. This will help us reach the best framework that could demonstrate unity through diversity and ensure respect for human rights by means of a common concept that everyone could believe in, afford, and agree to apply.

While calling for a new world social contract comprising parties of various cultures and civilizations, I do so within the framework of the new age in which the world has been interlinked and integrated in an unprecedented way. We must not view globalism and nationalism, universality or particularism as conflicting tendencies. But they should be viewed from the perspective of peaceful progress, a balanced formula [al-sighah al-mutawaziyah], and respect for the principles of the UN Charter. I certainly believe that the call for a new social contract is basically in harmony with the requirements of the peace plan in terms of preemptive diplomacy, participation in peacemaking, and contribution to peacekeeping. Egypt, a pioneer in developing the concept of peacekeeping and a country that has hosted UN troops on its territories, is ready to respond continuously to the international organization's call for participating in peacekeeping missions on the largest scale and in the most serious areas and crises.

Mr. President, the vision advanced by the secretary general in his agenda for peace in June inspires hope as much as challenge. While containing a call for the need to develop the United Nations and its role from one of crisis management and resolution of conflicts to a more comprehensive and wider mission that could embrace social, economic, and humanitarian issues, this vision gives rise to new dimensions dictated by the nature of the deep changes in the patterns of international relations.

Thus, an in-depth and extensive discussion of the components of this report and the core of this futuristic vision at the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, and the various agencies could go hand in hand with a wider study by research institutes in the various countries. This could enable us to reach a formula accepted by everyone on the political, security, economic, and social requirements in the coming stage of world history.

This agenda for peace keeps hopes alive and the target in focus. The good thing about it is that it does not ignore or bypass reality. It also keeps a balance between what is possible and what is hoped for. It constitutes a logical prelude to the great work ahead of us, namely, adapting the current stipulations to cope with the new facts. The world community agrees to, and even calls for, assuming greater responsibilities in resolving world and regional problems. Consequently, it calls for an influential UN role in preventing war and making peace. Respect for the United Nations necessarily means respect for its resolutions and mobilization of a collective will to implement these resolutions to impose peace, if necessary, or to negotiate peace, if intentions are sincere and the parties are cooperative. This is the only way to guarantee the formulation of a positive new world order that would enjoy general acceptance and thus, credibility and stability.

Mr. President. Amid all this come the problems of the Third World, the problem of the Third World, which is one of the most important issues that we have to discuss in this assembly and which brings together all peoples and countries.

The Third World held a summit conference within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement in Indonesia a few weeks ago. Delegations from around 120 countries attended. There was consensus on the following points:

1. The new world order should be established on a firm basis of law; the Charter's principles; the fair distribution of responsibility; and joint commitment to cooperation and solidarity.

2. This order's structure should stem from a comprehensive concept devoted to peace, justice, security, development, internal or national democracy, and international relations, and to strengthening the basic rights and freedoms of both individuals and peoples.

3. The principle of respect for nations' sovereignty and commitment to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries should not be weakened or impaired.

4. Conflicts should be resolved by peaceful means and through dialogue and constant negotiations.

5. Peace and stability depend on social and economic factors as much as on political and military ones. Consequently, a reduction in the scope for economic development and social progress would seriously endanger stability and therefore peace.

6. There was support for the demand to hold a world summit on social development that gives priority to the peoples and their social needs in the international efforts and that prepares the opportunity for confronting social problems from all their angles.

7. The United Nations, in its capacity as the global embodiment of pluralism, has a unique opportunity to become the collective international tool for setting up a new world order based on the principles of justice and equality.

From here, Mr. President, comes the link between the peace agendas and the Third World's hopes for playing a positive role through which it will contribute to the building of the new world order. We believe that setting up this order cannot be done and should not be done by coercion or force but through a democratic process in which all peoples and countries have a say and a role. Ultimately, this can come only through this institution, the United Nations.

Mr. President, there is a great movement in the world today toward disarmament, as well as tangible progress toward agreement on the mechanism of disarmament and realizing its objectives, for which we developed and developing nations always have called; in fact, the insistence of the Third World countries, represented by the Nonaligned Movement and the Group of 77, is crystal clear regarding the priorities of disarmament issues, especially nuclear disarmament. We also insist on directing its costs to fields of development to realize economic and social progress. Today, During this round, our new world is attempting to take another step by presenting a special agreement on banning chemical weapons.

Since we in Egypt were among the vanguard countries participating in the formulation of this agreement, as well as being among the vanguard people who initiated a proposal to set up regions free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, we wish to propose before the UN General Assembly our regional view of this agreement:

1. We wish to proceed toward chemical disarmament within the framework of an international agreement that forms part of a developed and comprehensive process for disarmament, particularly weapons of mass destruction.

2. We agree with the framework and content of the agreement as it was presented by the disarmament conference to the UN General Assembly.

3. From our regional viewpoint, we do not believe we should approach this agreement as an effort isolated

from other efforts dealing with the rest of the weapons of mass destruction, foremost of which is the agreement banning the spread of nuclear weapons, the system of guarantees and international inspection, and providing credible international guarantees.

4. We have a proposed official initiative on establishing a region free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, whether nuclear, chemical, biological, or other, in addition to proposals on methods of transporting them; moreover, our view of the chemical weapons disarmament agreement falls within this comprehensive framework and cannot be separated from it.

5. The Middle East countries—Arab or otherwise—except one have joined the international inspection system or the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. In addition, their support for the disarmament process is clear. The current exception of one state in the Middle East, however, is causing a great deal of insecurity, especially if we realize that this exception allows one country in the Middle East to own nuclear weapons without any international constraints. It allows this country, which owns a huge arsenal of military products, to be a part of a missile development project, thus turning it into a consecrated exception within the framework of disarmament. To a large extent, this rules out the effectiveness of all applicable charters and threatens the comprehensive regional, and even international, understanding of disarmament. In addition, it restricts the freedom of the countries in the region to join the agreement banning chemical weapons.

6. From this premise, the foreign ministers of the Arab League met in mid-September and discussed this issue in depth. The meeting approved the following four [as received] points as a basis for the Arab position on the treaty banning chemical weapons:

a—Full readiness to deal with all disarmament proposals that will provide security through equal and viable commitments that will apply a single criteria to all countries in the region.

b—Stressed full support for clearing the Middle East region of all nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons of mass destruction as this is the best way to achieve security for all countries in the region.

c—Full readiness to deal with any treaty banning chemical weapons as part of the efforts to set up this weapons-free zone and according to the response of the exceptional country (Israel) to international demands to join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and place its nuclear facilities under international supervision.

Mr. President, this is our position on the treaty banning chemical weapons. It is a position of support but within the framework of an integrated regional disarmament process to maintain the security of all Middle East countries that are threatened by the existence of nuclear weapons in their midst without any international control or legal commitment.

Mr. President, while on this subject, the Middle East is going through a phase that has many positive as well as negative aspects. As to the Middle East problem and the Palestinian cause, bilateral and multilateral negotiations are under way now within the framework of a peace process based on the principle of land for peace and on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which were issued within the context of the UN Charter's principles and objectives. Their clear concept is:

—Unacceptability of seizing territories through war and therefore protecting the sovereign rights and territorial integrity of every country through withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967.

—The right of all countries in the region to live in peace within their internationally recognized borders and hence guarantees for the security of all countries—Israel and the Arab countries.

As a matter of fact, Rabin's government has moved in the right direction and replaced the gloomy atmosphere with one that allows hope and optimism. It therefore has the negotiations the credibility which was almost lost completely due to the actions of the former Israeli Government. These actions were stressed in the former Israeli prime minister's statement, in which he said he had intended to prevaricate for 10 years. Not just the atmosphere but the content, too, is important, especially as the Arab parties led by Syria have agreed to enter into comprehensive peace agreements with Israel if the latter abides with what the agreed-on international charter, laws, and resolutions have imposed on it, including withdrawal to the international borders and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Mr. President, Egypt has formulated its view of the basis of comprehensive peace, with its two elements of security and justice, with the following principles:

1. The Arab-Israeli conflict, the aspects of which are indivisible, has four pillars, which are the land, the Palestinian right, security for all, and regional cooperation within the framework of peace.

2. The need for commitment to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, which represent the acceptable basis for the negotiations process, the pivot of which is the principle of land for peace.

3. The special status of Jerusalem does not negate the fact that East Jerusalem has been part of the occupied land since the middle of 1967, and therefore the principles of a settlement should apply to it just as it applies to the other occupied areas. Its future cannot be mandated and decided unilaterally. It is, therefore, one of the issues in the peace negotiations, whether with regard to the transitional period or the final Palestinian-Israeli settlement.

4. The solution should be comprehensive and cover all the fronts in the Golan, the West Bank, the Jordanian

territory, and southern Lebanon within the framework of Resolution 425 according to the provisions of international legitimacy.

5. The transitional arrangements within the framework of the talks on full autonomy must not affect the right of the Palestinian people to choose and determine their future.

6. The problem of the Palestinian refugees following the 1948 war and the displaced Palestinians following the 1967 war should be dealt with according to the resolutions of international legitimacy and mutual agreement on the basis of goodwill.

Mr. President, the Egyptian view of the future Middle East and within the framework of new international developments—as well as its historical and cultural ties with the Arab states and its peaceful relations with Israel—all this gives Egypt the ability to play an effective role in the peace process and to provide strong support for the negotiations process. This process aims at responding to the legitimate demands which are consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace and at achieving a peaceful, just, and permanent settlement on all fronts and in implementation of the same principles. This will contribute to the establishment of a strong framework for peace, security, and cooperation among all the peoples and countries of the region.

Mr. President, in the Gulf region, which is part of the Middle East, we are witnessing another source of tension on its eastern border, represented by Iran's occupation of Arab islands, the latest being Abu Musa Island. We cannot overlook this or keep quiet about it. Therefore, we call on Iran to review its position on this issue, abide by the principles of good-neighborliness, respect the provisions of international law and the sovereignty of states over their territory, and restore the status quo ante.

It is hoped that the process of the relations between Iran and the Arab peoples will be a process of friendship, brotherhood, and cooperation, since what links these people is much more than what divides them.

In the midst of this turmoil, we in Egypt are equally concerned about the fate of the Iraqi people and their land. We call on the Iraqi Government to abide by the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy, and we call on the international community to safeguard the unity of Iraq's territory and people. We also support Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its international boundaries.

Mr. President, while discussing the most crucial problems facing the world today, I cannot but refer to the situation in Africa. The African continent, the Horn of Africa in particular, is facing numerous political, economic, and social problems, such as political instability, tribal conflicts, desertification, famines, and problems of refugees and displaced persons. This prompts us to appeal to the international community to pay more attention to the African continent. At the same time, I cannot fail to laud the democratic changes in the continent and its countries' realization of the need to cooperate at the regional and continental levels. This makes us optimistic of Africa's ability to overcome these difficult conditions. I appeal to the international community to shoulder its responsibility of implementing the new UN program for development in the 1990s to strengthen the process of democratic change and economic and social development in the continent's countries.

At the same time, progress toward eliminating apartheid is in fact a positive point in a sea of negativeness. The racist extremists' attempt to impede the process will have no effect on this. The people of South Africa are on their way toward exercising their rights and the positive development will not halt due to the acts of violence or attempts to renege. Our responsibility will remain based on supporting the process of dialogue, negotiations, and restoring impetus to achieve a non-racist democratic society in South Africa.

Last but not least, the situation in Somalia requires more than humanitarian relief efforts that we are helping to give. It needs an intensification of efforts to bring about national reconciliation. While calling on the international community to continue its efforts, we call on the Somali factions to shoulder their responsibility of formulating a healthy relationship between themselves and to dispel the impression of national and patriotic unawareness they have given amid the tribal conflicts and struggle for power.

From the same premise, we stand in all steadfastness against aggression in defense of respect for the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. We call for halting the attempts to interfere in its internal affairs and the ethnic cleansing practices against its people, which reflect the attitudes of inherited racism, intellectual backwardness, and cultural decline. The demise of former Yugoslavia, though regrettable in view of its contribution to international life, makes it incumbent on us to respect the equal rights of all its peoples and all the countries that have emerged from it, because all of them, not just one, are its heirs in the international order, as the General Assembly recognized several days ago.

Mr. President, this is a time of great opportunities and challenges. After 40 years of cold war, we are in a position to establish a more secure and more democratic world. We are at a time when the democratic revolution in international relations might succeed or fail, when the rush of ethnic tensions might abate or conflicts might erupt, and when the pillars of the new world order might be entrenched or the current world order might collapse without there being an alternative.

We are at the threshold of a world seeking stability but which is going through a transitional period in which tomorrow's map might be redrawn, chaos might spread,

and ethnic countries and groups, terrorists, and extremists might resort to violence to stop the cycle of history, civilization, and progress. But the collective determination and the forces of goodwill that triumphed today will open the door for the United Nations and for us to a new century, to choosing a better tomorrow where economic development and social integration surge forward, where we protect the environment according to the principles and commitments which we agreed on at the Rio summit, and where we respect peoples and human rights; a better future that we will all help to create for the sake of the world we are hoping for in the 21st century.

Ambassadors on Mubarak's Visit to PRC 12 Oct

NC3009103492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 30 Sep 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM cites the PRC ambassador to Cairo as saying that President Husni Mubarak's visit to the PRC, which will begin on 12 October, is important for furthering relations in various fields between the Chinese and Egyptian people.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0832 GMT on 30 September adds the following: "Egypt's Ambassador to Beijing Samir Burhan said: 'President Husni Mubarak's visit to China, scheduled for the middle of October, will broaden horizons in relations between the two countries, benefiting both.'

["The Egyptian ambassador noted that relations between Egypt and the PRC are 'excellent' and that: 'The Chinese leaders appreciate the role played by Egypt and President Mubarak in establishing peace in the Middle East.'"]

'Agreement in Principle' Reached With IMF

NC2609184092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] IMF officials praised Egypt's steps toward economic reform. An economic source said a new agreement in principle was reached during the current talks between an Egyptian delegation and the IMF in Washington. The IMF will support Egyptian economic reform measures at the upcoming stage. The source said the election of Dr. 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan as the representative of the Arab group in the IMF board of directors reflects an appreciation of Egypt's prominent role in the region.

The Egyptian delegation to the talks with the IMF is headed by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister. It comprises Dr. Salah Hamid, governor of the Central Bank; Finance Minister Muhammad al-Razzaz; and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. The delegation is scheduled to return to Cairo from Washington Monday.

Libyan Coordinator Returns to Cairo Post

NC2609074992 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 23 Sep 92 p 5

[Excerpts] Egyptian-Libyan relations are bound to become more active following the return to Cairo of Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations. Furthermore, the Joint Egyptian-Libyan Higher Committee will hold its new session in Tripoli early next week. [passage omitted]

AKHIR SA'AH has learned that the Higher Committee will discuss various economic issues, particularly the elimination of obstacles facing bilateral trade. It also has been learned that Libya has submitted a proposal for increasing the number of Libyan students pursuing higher education in Egypt and for the medical treatment of Libyans in Cairo, either by establishing Libyan hospitals or through existing hospitals. [passage omitted]

Upon returning to Cairo, Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm pointed out that cooperation between Egypt and Libya will witness a new turn in light of the instructions of President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Muhammad al-Hijazi, secretary of the Libyan Committee for Integration with the Arab Republic of Egypt Affairs, told AKHIR SA'AH that he is completely satisfied with the course of cooperation between the two countries, although what has already been achieved does not represent the two countries' aspirations. He added, however, that this is just the beginning. The Libyan official said: One-and-a-half years is a relatively short period for drawing up a plan for settling 1 million Egyptians. Such projects need many years. He noted that Egyptian companies have started digging wells and cultivating land, adding that 200 farms have been prepared for settlement. He stressed that the Higher Committee will discuss this issue during its forthcoming session.

Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm has already started intensive activities to bolster Egyptian-Libyan relations and eliminate the obstacles facing bilateral cooperation across the open borders.

'Noticeable Flexibility' in Peace Talks Noted

NC2709074392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM notes a sense of satisfaction prevailing among the delegation members who took part in the sixth round of bilateral peace talks in Washington.

The paper believes that this satisfaction is not attributed to accomplishments as much as to progress in approach, language, and the desire to exchange views and proposals.

AL-AHRAM hopes the 30-day recess the delegations agreed to before resuming the seventh round will help

them reassess positions and prepare new proposals to bring views closer and lessen differences. It expresses optimism at the common willingness to issue a declaration of principles, particularly by the Syrians, Palestinians, and Israelis.

The paper notes, however, that certain proposals related to the Palestinian issue have not as yet been discussed, although they were mentioned in both Palestinian and Israeli statements. Of these, the paper cites a statement on the possibility of reaching an agreement on preserving Jerusalem's unity by declaring it the capital for both Israel and Palestine at the same time, leaving the western sector to Israel and the eastern to the Palestinians. AL-AHRAM also cites Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remark about a possible confederacy between the Palestinians and Israel.

The paper believes that these two proposals demonstrate a noticeable flexibility in handling the most complex problems. This heralds a new approach in negotiations based on seriousness and mutual respect, AL-AHRAM writes.

'Breakthrough' Anticipated in Next Round of Talks

NC2909164992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "Egypt and the Possibility of Pushing the Peace Process Ahead"]

[Text] The importance of Egypt's role in advancing the Middle East peace process, as well as President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's relevant efforts, have become more evident day after day. Egypt has always been eager for peace in the region and for concurrently restoring Arab rights in full. Using its political weight and good relations with world countries concerned with the Middle East question in general and with the Arab countries participating in the peace process in particular, Egypt has been making every possible effort to advance the peace process and has been holding contacts with all quarters that can effectively promote this process.

In this respect, we point out the statement by the head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace negotiations in Washington. He said Egypt is throwing all its weight behind the peace process and that his delegation is using Egypt's experience in the talks with the Israelis. We also point out Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's meeting with the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states, who are attending the UN General Assembly session in New York. He informed them of Egypt's contacts and efforts to promote the peace process.

Out of the Palestinian and Arab belief in the positive role of Egypt in achieving peace, and in its efforts toward that end, 'Arafat visited Egypt and discussed the peace process with President Husni Mubarak. 'Arafat asked his excellency to intervene to save the peace negotiations, especially since the sixth round ended without making the anticipated progress. Moreover, some recent Israeli statements have raised Arab concerns that Israel is not serious about peace.

It is true that there have been some positive Israeli statements, including the statement of the education minister, who called for a withdrawal from the Golan. But a clamor has been created over this call, and, indeed, there have been reports that the minister may be dismissed from the government. This casts doubts on the positive nature of Israel's inclination toward peace. For peace to be achieved, Israel must pull out of the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan.

The contradiction in the Israeli statements over the peace process, however, should not be a cause for anxiety on the part of the Arabs. This is Israel's way of handling things. Egypt learned this from its experience with Israel, but through its patience and persistence, it managed to restore its rights. The negotiations over the border strip of Tabah gives ample proof.

Perhaps we will not depart from the truth if we say that Israel, although adopting a policy of procrastination and elusiveness, realizes full well that it will lose much if the peace efforts fail. When the negotiations resume on 20 October, therefore, Israel should explicitly explain its position on withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Here, we have to be realistic and point out that there is a change in Israel's position, although the progress everyone was hoping for was not made during the sixth round of talks. Through one of its officials, Israel expressed approval for the participation of Europe and the United Nations in the peace process—something it had rejected before. This can be seen as a new Israeli position. In conclusion, we say that the resumption of the Middle East peace talks next month, and Egypt's contacts with the main parties to the conflict, drive us to expect a breakthrough in the talks, with a view toward achieving a just and comprehensive solution that will bring peace and restore rights.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi 'Willing' To Meet West's Demands

PM2909152792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Sep 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Qadhdhafi Agrees to Abolish 'Green Book' and Reconcile With Libyan Opposition Groups"]

[Text] London, Political Studies Center—Has the Lockerbie page been turned and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi submitted to all U.S. and Western conditions? Is Libya at the doorstep of a new phase different from the phase of the "Green Book," the committees everywhere, the General People's Congress, and the other terms used over the last two decades?

The answer to this question is not based on just a reading of events and drawing of conclusions. Well-informed and reliable sources confirmed that the "Lockerbie" page could become something of the past and that Col. al-Qadhdhafi told Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during the latter's visit to Libya last month that he was willing to fulfill all U.S. and Western demands in return for ending this case peacefully and without any military or economic measures.

Based on that, the sources in question expect the United States to end the embargo imposed on Libya shortly. They also expect the Lockerbie page in its Libya policy to be turned, with the possibility of its being transferred to one of the other states said to have probably been implicated in the case.

The sources said that the main condition that Col. al-Qadhdhafi expressed his willingness to implement is the one relating to the status of Libyan oil, from the point of its extraction right to its sale on world markets by U.S. companies. This is in addition to a commitment to the output level and prices advised by these companies.

The sources believe that the condition includes a clause concerning the need to determine the oil quantities Libya exports to the Western states, in particular Germany.

Furthermore, it seems that Col. al-Qadhdhafi expressed his willingness to compensate the families of the victims killed in the Pan Am plane incident. But this compensation could be paid indirectly and in a way that would make it look like a donation prompted by humanitarian motives.

The important thing after the clause concerning the extraction and sale of oil is that Col. al-Qadhdhafi expressed his willingness to turn the Jamahiriyah pyramid overturned and to abolish the "Green Book," the revolutionary committees, and all the terms invented over the past two decades.

Thus Col. al-Qadhdhafi is expected to embark shortly on a series of measures, to include the dissolution of the General People's Congress and the Arab People's Congress, after first dissolving the Islamic Call [al-Da'wah] Organization and changing all the symbols of the crew with which he has ruled for nearly two decades. Among them are Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, Intelligence Director 'Abdallah al-Sanusi, and Army Commander Abu-Bakr Yunus. But he will certainly keep his relatives and cousins, first and foremost Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm.

The sources said that al-Qadhdhafi also expressed his willingness to receive and be reconciled with the opposition abroad and to involve them in government. But he requested guarantees that it would not turn against him. He also set the condition that some opposition factions of the—and it seems that the one intended is the National [Salvation] Front led by former Ambassador Muhammad al-Muqaryif—abandon the slogans they raised over the past years and agree to coexist with him and his regime under the new formula.

In addition, some reports talk about contacts between some opposition symbols residing abroad and Col. al-Qadhdhafi and about their agreement to mediate with the other opposition factions. But they set him—that is, Col. al-Qadhdhafi—the condition that he must end the existing formula of totalitarian rule and adopt democratic experience and political pluralism.

At another level, according to the new orientations, Libya is expected in the stage ahead to witness a state of self-absorption and to focus on domestic affairs. As is known, the Libyan press prepared for such a state of affairs with a fierce campaign supervised by al-Qadhdhafi himself against the Arabs, Arabism, and Libya's relations and Arab interests.

Some people believe that the recent fabricated dispute with Tunisia and the expulsion of thousands of Tunisian workers falls within this context. And they expect similar measures against Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Sudanese workers.

But they also believe that these measures may not include any Egyptian workers, especially at the first stage, in view of the role played by Cairo and President Husni Mubarak personally in freeing Col. al-Qadhdhafi from the Lockerbie dilemma and in working to lift the embargo on him shortly.

It is worth noting here that Col. al-Qadhdhafi severed all his links with terrorist factions in Europe and around the world and handed over information the British admitted was useful and very important about the IRA, which demands northern Ireland's separation from the UK.

In the same context, Col. al-Qadhdhafi closed all the camps belonging to Palestinian factions and Lebanese parties on Libyan territory. He also requested security affiliates in his country to close the offices of some factions accused by the United States and some Western circles of terrorism.

Gulf Ministers Meet Eagleburger

PM2809125792 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Sep 92 pp1, 4

[Raghidah Dirgham report: "United States Briefs Gulf States on Improved Atmosphere with Jordan"]

[Excerpt] New York—AL-HAYAH has learned from high-ranking Gulf sources that the meeting held between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers and U.S. Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger on the night of Tuesday-Wednesday in New York focused on the development in the Jordanian position in distancing itself from the Iraqi Government. The U.S. side informed the Gulf side that Washington was beginning to seriously consider the possibility of changing its policy toward Jordan and resuming U.S. aid to it. During the meeting, Eagleburger sought to inform the Gulf ministers of the "new trend." The sources added that the Gulf ministers informed the Americans of the Gulf states' position on the Abu Musa crisis with Iran and that the U.S. secretary had "reaffirmed the principle of rejecting the use of force to change any existing situation anywhere." "That applies to Iran and Abu Musa," he said.

The Gulf sources referred to "the new developments in King Husayn's position," noting in particular his visit to the Imam al-Kho'i Foundation in London and his statements about Saddam Husayn.

Informed sources have said that Eagleburger told the Gulf ministers that the Americans welcomed the change in Jordan's policy and were considering ways of improving U.S.-Jordanian relations and resuming aid to Jordan, but that that would depend on King Husayn continuing to pursue this policy and on Jordan effectively implementing the blockade against Iraq. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Information Minister on Arab Security, Iraq

LD2709130992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has reaffirmed that Kuwait will not hesitate to take any appropriate measure with any country to realize self-security and maintain its independence and its entity. He referred in this connection to the bilateral security agreements which Kuwait signed with the United States in November 1991, Britain in February 1992, and France in August 1992. In a statement to 'AL-WAFD' published today he added that these agreements were temporary and that Kuwait is hoping that the Arab nation will soon realize its capability to achive self-security to maintain the entity of all Arab states without any exception.

Regarding Sultan Qabus's proposal to form a Gulf military force and the difficulties which prevent the implementation of this proposal, the information minister said: We are for the realization of Arab self-security and Gulf self-security but the implementation of any decision of this type needs a study so that that the decision can be born strong and in full. [passage omitted].

Regarding his appraisal of the situation in the region within the framework of the internationally imposed exclusion zones in northern and southern Iraq, the information minister said that the Arab states have declared their rejection of the partition of Iraq, but in implementation of the UN Security Council resolution and to protect the people of Iraq from any persecution operations by the Baghdad government it was inevitable to impose an exclusion zone; in fact it was inevitable that a land exclusion zone should be imposed on the land forces as far as some Iraqi areas were concerned, particularly since the Iraqi regime was not abiding by the UN Security Council resolutions, and began to strike, kill, and destroy the sons of the Iraqi people, whether in the south or north, or in central Iraq. Hence it was necessary for the Security Council to implement the appropriate measures to prevent Saddam Husayn and his regime from taking on the Iraqi people. He added: Nobody wants partition; nobody wishes to divide up Iraq; we all want Iraq to be democratic, believing in democracy, and free opinion, and maintain security in the region, and respect the rights of its neighbors as well as the resolutions of the Security Council in all fields especially with regard to Kuwait, and specifically the demarcation of the border and the question of prisoners.

Regarding what has been reiterated about alternative powers such as Turkey and Iran as being qualified to fill the vacuum in the region as a kind of balance after cutting down the size of Iraq, the minister of information expressed his belief that originally there was nothing called a vacuum or filling the vacuum; the region does not need balance. He added that all the Arab states are capable of realizing balance via dialogue and diplomatic channels in a manner that distances them from international and regional disputes.

Regarding the current dispute between Iran and the UAE, Dr. al-Ya'qub reaffirmed the Arab rights to the island of Abu Musa and said that all Arabs should endeavor to preserve Arab territories and protect them from any outside aggression or invasion. He also expressed hope that the dispute between the two states will be solved and that today's meeting in Abu Dhabi will lead to the settlement of the dispute. [passage omitted]

Oman

Iranian Official, King Discuss Abu Musa Issue

LD2909135992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Minister of Mines and Metals, Mr. Mahlujchi, who is currently in Oman,

met with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the king of Oman, and submitted President Hashemi- Rafsanjani's message to him. The message expounds the political situation in the region and the Islamic world, underlining the Islamic Republic of Iran's unchanging stands on maintaining tranquillity and security in the region, peaceful coexistence with its neighbors, and defense of sovereignty.

Sultan Qabus, for his part, laid emphasis on the Islamic Republic of Iran's significant role in establishing stability and unity, and stressed his country's opposition to the historical and baseless claims that pave the way for exploitation by foreign powers.

The Omani king described the recent hue and cry over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, and Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek, as devoid of legal credibility. He said: Any skepticism about the present situation and the agreements of the past few decades would bring about major difficulties for the region and the Islamic world.

Stressing the need for the brotherly resolution of minor issues between countries and neighbors, the Omani sultan described the Omani stance as that of preventing any kind of crisis and tension in the Persian Gulf region, and removing the grounds for exploitation laid by hidden hands.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi-Yemeni Committee Considers Border Issues

LD2909194792 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] A reliable source at the Foreign Ministry made the following statement to the Saudi Press Agency today:

In continuation of the meetings that began in Geneva in mid-July 1992 between the Saudi side led by Minister of Education Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Khuwaytir, and the Yemeni side led by Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, to discuss the issue of the border between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the sister Yemeni Republic; and on the basis of the memorandums exchanged between the government of the Kingdom and that of the Yemeni Republic, the joint committee of experts began its meeting in Riyadh yesterday, Monday, 2 Rab'i Al-Thani 1413 AH, corresponding to 28 September 1992, to hold serious negotiations aimed at achieving what the governments of the two countries want.

The source continued: During the meetings, a review of the work of the committee took place. The source added: The memorandum submitted by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Government of the Yemeni Republic on 13 Rab'i Al-Awwal 1413 AH, corresponding to 10 September 1992, contained a definition of the tasks of the joint committee of experts as follows:

First: The setting up of a committee to define relations on the border line on the basis of the border reports prepared in accordance with the [1934] al-Ta'if Treaty, by agreeing with an international company to carry this out.

Second: Demarcation of what remains of the border beginning with Jabal al-Thar in accordance with the al-Ta'if Treaty, by means of each side submitting simultaneously its visualization of the border line dealt with by the al-Ta'if Treaty.

Third: Determination and demarcation of the border in the land region not dealt with by the al-Ta'if Treaty until the border of the Sultanate of Oman, this also by each side submitting simultaneously its visualization of the border line in this region.

Fourth: Determining the maritime border.

The source went on to say that the Yemeni side on the committee of experts had said that the competent Yemeni authorities are discussing the articles proposed in the above-mentioned Saudi memorandums and they are preparing their proposals concerning the topics of the agenda and the priority of those topics. Until this reply is received from the Government of the sister Yemeni Republic, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the round of negotiations should continue in Riyadh.

Fahd Said To Reject Critical Letter From Clergy

NC2909113592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Saudi Arabian clergymen have again strongly criticized Fahd's policies. Over 100 clergymen have sent a letter to Fahd in which they criticize Riyadh's domestic and foreign policies and stress that military pacts with foreign governments threaten the country's territorial integrity and independence. The letter stresses that Saudi Arabia should not depend on a foreign power for its self-defense.

The letter also strongly criticizes the Riyadh government for keeping information on foreign policies a secret and for granting billions of dollars in loans to infidel regimes. In the letter, the clergymen call on Fahd to stop cooperating with the U.S. Government and to stop supporting talks with the Zionist regime.

Saudi King Fahd has apparently refused to accept the letter. The clergymen have sent letters to Fahd before, but this one is more strongly worded.

[In a similar report, Tehran radio in Persian at 0330 GMT on 29 September adds the following: "King Fahd has apparently refused to accept this 45-page letter."]

United Arab Emirates

Government To Bring Abu Musa Issue to UN 30 Sep

NC2909124792 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, Sept 29 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will complain to the United Nations over its territorial dispute with Tehran on Wednesday, UAE official sources said Tuesday.

UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi will raise the issue in his address to the U.N General Assembly, they said.

"We don't want any military confrontation with the Iranians. Our recourse now is the United Nations after Iran refused to go to the International Court of Justice," one source said.

The move followed the collapse of negotiations between the two countries on a territorial dispute involving the three tiny but strategic Gulf islands of Abu Musa, and Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih on Unity, Border Issues, Recent Violence

JN2709170192 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has stated that Yemeni unity is a solid reality growing firmer as democracy takes root in the country. The Yemeni people, he added, will uphold and guard their unity as one of their possessions. There is no going back on the democratic option chosen by the people. Yemen, he continued, has room for all its people, and it belongs to all of them. With the exception of Al Hamid al-Din [the ruling dynasty ousted in 1962] and the Sultans [al-salatin], no political forces will be banned from joining the effort to build the homeland, the president stressed.

Prospecting for oil is proceeding normally, President Salih said.

The brother president emphasized that parliamentary elections will not be postponed, but will be held on schedule. He hoped the Higher Election Committee preparing for the poll will fulfill its mission regardless of the party affiliations of its members.

On the border delineation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the brother president said the two sides are anxious to see the issue settled. Yemen, he added, wants very much for this problem to be resolved amicably. The president pointed out that a joint expert-level committee is set to convene in Riyadh tomorrow to devise a mechanism for working out a solution to the border problem.

On the border delineation accord with the Sultanate of Oman, the brother president said the two sides have worked out a final draft which they will sign shortly.

The brother president referred to the string of acts of violence and terror that hit our country recently. These acts, he observed, seek to derail Yemen's democratic and unionist option. Our country, however, will not be dissuaded from the democratic line or the elections.

His remarks were made at a news conference the brother president held this morning at the Presidential Palace for Arab and other media representatives, who are in Yemen for the revolution anniversary celebrations.

Iraqi Official Meets 'Arafat, Officials in Sanaa

JN2709132192 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Sanaa, Sept. 27, INA—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today received in Sanaa Mr 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Regional Leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, now on a visit to Yemen.

The Palestinian president was reported to have extended during the meeting, greetings and appreciation of the Palestinian people and leadership to President Saddam Husayn and wishes to the Iraqi people over continued progress and prosperity adding that that would contribute to boosting the struggle of the Palestinian people and their uprising against the Zionist occupation.

Meanwhile, Mr 'Abd-al-Ghafur continued meetings with the Yemeni political organizations and parties and today met Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, leader of the Yemeni Rally for Reform and Mr 'Abdallah al-Sallal, the former president of Yemen.

The Yemeni leaders paid tribute to the steadfastness of Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn in confronting the evil plots which are after harming the Arabs and Moslems and disrupting Iraq's development.

Mr 'Abd-al-Ghafur also met Mr Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [as received] who strongly denounced the U.S.-led designs against Iraq and said that these designs passively affected the struggle of the Palestinian people against Zionist occupation and for achieving their legitimate right over their national soil.

Departs After Celebrations

JN2809125592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1027 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 28 Sep (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of its Foreign Relations Bureau, left Sanaa today after he and his delegation participated in the fraternal Yemeni people's celebrations on the 26 September revolution anniversary. [passage omitted]

Opposition Establishes 'Government,' Ends Meeting

Parliament Also Created

LD2909131192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait 29 Sep (KUNA)—At the end of its meetings in the town of Salah al-Din, in northern Iraq, the Iraqi opposition decided to set up a leading authority comprising three members, as well as a 17-minister government and a 174-member parliament. SAWT AL-KUWAYT today said that according to opposition sources, the Presidential Council [Majlis Ri'asah] will comprise Major General Hasan al-Naqib, a Sunni; Dr. Muhammad Bahr al-Ulum, a Shi'ite; and Masu'd al-Barzani, a Kurd. The sources said that during the meetings, Salah al-Shaykhli was nominated instead of al-Naqib, but the latter was chosen in view of his extensive connections in both Arab and international political circles. The sources stressed that the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim was also nominated for the membership of the Presidential Council, but he proposed Dr. Muhammad Bahr al-Ulum in his place. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports No Accord on 'Federation'

NC2909141792 Paris AFP in English 1315 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Ahvaz, Iran, Sept 29 (AFP)—The Iraqi opposition is set to meet again in the Kurdish-held north of the country on October 23 but there is no accord on Kurdish demands for a federation, a Shi'ite opposition chief said Tuesday.

The main aim of last week's opposition meeting was "to encourage the Iraqi people to overthrow the Baghdad regime," Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim said in Ahvaz, southwest Iran, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the Iraqi border.

The leader of the Iran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) told Western reporters that Shi'ite, Sunni and non-Arab Kurdish opposition groups would meet again on October 23 in the town of Irbil.

"At the end of the last meeting, all the movements underlined their commitment to the unity of Iraq and not to the idea of a federated state," Hakim said.

Iraqi Kurdish opposition groups, who are hosting the meetings, have demanded a federation in a future democratic Iraq. But their calls have stirred little enthusiasm from Arab groups.

The week-long first round agreed the broad outlines of a national assembly, government and presidential leadership in waiting. The plan will now go to the higher-level meeting in October.

Hakim said the talks, apart from uniting the opposition, were designed to secure international and regional recognition for the resistance to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

But he insisted the United States and Western Europe should not be linked to the opposition's activities because this could "raise doubts over the credibility" of the resistance.

Committee Members Listed

JN2909092692 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] We have learned that the preparatory committee, which was formed by the Iraqi opposition forces on 27 September to prepare for an expanded meeting of the opposition within approximately one month, comprises the following representatives of all basic factions of the opposition:

1. Dr. Ahmad Jalabi.
2. Dr. Layth Kubbah.
3. Salah (?al-Shaykhali).
4. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman.
5. Falak-al-Din (?al-Kati'i).
6. Mahdi al-'Ubaydi Abu-Salah.
7. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Safi.
8. Nuri al-Amin.
9. Dr. Abu-Ahmad al-Ja'fari.
10. Humam Hammudi or Eng. Bayan Jabr.

'Interference' in North Criticized

JN3009073892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that under the new world (?order), the criminal trio of aggression continues its flagrant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

In an article today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that harming Iraq's national unity is continuing under the flimsy and exposed pretext of protecting human rights.

The paper asks: Is the trio of aggression fabricating disturbances and seditions in Iraq for the sake of freedom, democracy, and human rights? Is France smuggling weapons and military hardware to northern Iraq meant to protect human rights?

The paper notes the Turkish officials' statements that this consignment of weapons and explosives is not the first but was preceded by others sent to northern Iraq for the purpose of killing and sabotage.

It adds: What a gift and what humanitarian aid that is intended to kill people and wreak havoc and destruction in their country!

Concluding, the paper says: Parallel 32 was seized when Iraq stood up to defend its unity against foreign armed penetration. How much is stealthily perpetrated in the name of humanitarian aid in an age of reversed values and standards!

'Concentrated' Shelling of Marshlands Reported

NC2809161392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] After the regime lost hope of regaining control of the security situation in the south, the heavy long-range artillery belonging to the defeated Saddam forces have—from the morning of the 24th of the current month until this report was prepared—been carrying out concentrated and strong shelling operations of the areas of (Abi 'Addad), ('Ayyadah), and (al-Shati') in the marshlands of al-Nasiriyah Governorate. Our sources sent this report in an urgent dispatch we received today. The sources added that a large number of residential buildings were shelled and scores of civilians [words indistinct] were either killed or injured.

It is worth noting here that the residents of these areas are not afraid of these criminal actions, irrespective of their scope. They are now more determined than ever before to confront this regime.

UN Envoy Denounces Saudi 'Allegations'

JN3009085092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Sep (INA)—Iraq's delegate to the UN General Assembly session last night, Tuesday, denounced the Al Sa'ud family's allegations, voiced by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Reacting to the Saudi minister's speech, Minister Plenipotentiary 'Adnan Malik Nasif said these allegations are false and distort facts and realities. The Saudi regime, he said, seeks to use these allegations to camouflage its role in the U.S.-Atlantic aggression against Iraq.

He added Iraq is not surprised by the Saudi regime's underestimation of the value of sovereignty because it has relinquished its sovereignty to the colonialist countries and is still playing the same role against Iraq by allowing the U.S. aircraft to take off from its airfields to violate the Iraqi sovereignty.

The Iraqi delegate stressed that the Iraqis will not relinquish their sovereignty, independence, and territorial unity for any price because the Iraqis' dignity is too great and big to be tarnished by any foreigner.

Foreign Minister Meets UN's Eliasson in New York

JN3009085792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The United Nations, 30 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf last night met with Jan Eliasson, UN assistant secretary general.

INA correspondent in New York has reported that this was the foreign minister's second meeting with Mr. Eliasson during his current visit to the United Nations.

The meeting was attended by Wisam al-Zahawi, adviser to the foreign minister; Riyad al-Qaysi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Organizations Department; Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations; and a number of Mr. Eliasson's aides.

Memo to UN Protests U.S. Airspace Violations

JN2809102292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations that U.S. aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

A protest memorandum addressed by Iraq's UN representative yesterday to the UN secretary general notes that between 18 and 24 September U.S. aircraft violated Iraqi airspace through 491 sorties in various areas in northern and southern Iraq and at various speeds and altitudes.

The memorandum explains that at 1258 on 18 September, a T-R-1 [name as received] plane flew 18 km beyond the 32d parallel. At 1500, the plane left Iraqi airspace toward Hafar al-Batin in Saudi Arabia.

The memorandum notes that the U.S. enemy flights centered over the Mosul, Irbil, al-'Amadiyah, Zakho, 'Ayn Zalah, Tall 'Afar, Dokan, Sanjar, and Rawandoz areas in northern Iraq, as well as the al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, al-Shatrah, Artawiya, southern al-Diwaniyah, al-Salman, al-Busayyah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Samawah, and al-Qurnah areas in southern Iraq.

Kuwaiti Tanks, Missiles Reportedly To Be Returned

NC2809175992 Paris AFP in English 1743 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 28 (AFP)—Iraq is to return 200 tanks as well as Hawk anti-aircraft missiles and artillery pieces to Kuwait starting in early October, a U.N. official said here Monday.

Hans Glittenberg told AFP the transfer of weaponry seized during the Iraqi occupation of neighbouring Kuwait would be carried out at the Safwan border post after transportation by road.

Most of the tanks are British-built Vickers and Chieftains, said the official in charge of the return of seized Kuwaiti property.

"Half was reported by the Iraqis to be in decent condition. The rest is more or less damaged," he said, adding that Baghdad said it had not used the tanks because they were not the same as those of the Iraqi Army.

Together with the undisclosed number of Hawk missiles and artillery pieces, Glittenberg said the transfer would be "the biggest operation for us in volume" since the Gulf War that drove Iraq out of Kuwait in February 1991.

"We have excellent cooperation from both parties," he said.

Iraqi troops invaded the emirate on August 2, 1990 and occupied it for seven months, during which huge amounts of Kuwaiti goods were seized and moved to Iraq.

In early September, Iraq started to return spare parts to the Kuwaiti Air Force worth more than 100 million dollars. The transfer, also under United Nations supervision, will take a total of 60 flights by transport planes.

Kuwait recovered 11 military aircraft and four helicopters last year as well as two planes belonging to the national carrier Kuwait Airways.

Iraq has likewise returned 900 million dollars worth of gold, coins and Kuwaiti bank notes, 135,000 books seized from Kuwait's national library, museums pieces and 61 boats.

In August, Kuwaiti ministries started to recover their computers and furniture, through the Iraqi-Saudi border post of 'Arar. For the health ministry alone, 100 trucks were needed to transport the seized goods.

Saddam Congratulates King Husayn on Return

JN2409192392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, on his auspicious return to his homeland after his recovery.

The cable says: I have received, with great happiness, news of your auspicious return to your dear country, accompanied by God's care after your recovery.

I extend my warmest wishes, in my name and on behalf of the Iraqi people, to you and to the fraternal Jordanian people, beseeching God Almighty to grant you good health, happiness, and long life.

My best wishes to the fraternal Jordanian people for continued progress, loftiness, and impregnability.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Saddam Inspects Exhibition of Gifts, Portraits

JN2709190192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has inspected the exhibition of gifts presented to him by Iraqi citizens, Arab nationals, and foreign friends.

The exhibition is made up of paintings, portraits of his excellency the president, artifacts, ancient weapons, some traditional jewelry, and samples of handicrafts.

The citizens, through their dedication, expressed their affection for their mujahid leader His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Writer Views Various Ideas To Activate Economy

JN2909161192 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Sep 92 p 2

[Article by 'Arif Mazhar: "The Public and the Private Sectors Again]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In last Saturday's article I called for a comprehensive return to the public sector, but I did not mean that the private sector should be abolished. Today I add: Selling state-owned institutions, companies, and farms to the private sector should have at least been supervised by the public sector; something that has never happened.

Those who bought factories from the state failed to enhance production. Some have even suspended production under various pretexts and justifications. The majority have paid only a small part of the price, and they even began to ask for loans from state financial institutions. Such factories should be retrieved from the private sector, which is the party to blame in this regard.

The first-class hotels that were sold to the private sector have not met the state policy behind the establishment of such hotels, which have been seriously neglected by their new owners on the pretext that they are private property. In view of the state hotels' high rates, Arab expatriates, who are required to pay dollars, prefer to pay high annual rents in Iraqi dinars to rent houses. This, in addition to other known reasons, pushed the prices of real estate even higher.

While states ask their visitors to change certain amounts of their dollars into their national currency, to date Iraq has not adopted such a measure.

I am not an economist, but what I have said in this article reflects some of what is being said on the street. In this article it is my duty to present some economists' ideas and proposals, seeking public benefit, nothing else.

Economists talk about the need to issue strict regulations against hoarders, speculators, and those who tamper with prices. They also talk about the need to establish a consumer protection society. Here are some proposals presented by economists:

1. The Iraqi currency should be reevaluated.

2. A monetary policy should be developed to control the supply of currency and the new issues of money to maintain the real value of the currency unit.

3. Services, liberal professions, and commercial transactions with all their intermediate links should be subjected to a taxation system to achieve the objective of increasing taxation awareness and to reduce the state budget deficit.

4. Long-term savings bonds for reconstruction purposes should be issued for public subscription with an interest rate of not less than 20 percent in order to withdraw the extra liquidity that citizens have.

5. Facilities and guarantees should be provided for Iraqi expatriates to encourage them to invest their foreign currency savings in the country in return for specific profits.

The proposals also cover other important issues, which will be discussed later.

As citizens, we are not against the measures that the state has adopted to support the private sector. However, we are against the policy of some circles in the private sector that seek to set fires in the country and in citizens' public lives.

Apparent Progress With Syria Called 'Misleading'

TA2909200992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The cabinet will tomorrow hear a comprehensive report summing up the sixth round of peace talks that ended just before Rosh Hashana. Meanwhile, Israel's chief negotiators have clamped a tight lid of secrecy on the contents of the Syrian document handed to Israel that details Syria's positions.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Gurdus reports that Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman said Syria presented Israel with a position paper that created a linkage between peace on all fronts. Salman said there was no room for any mutual understanding between Israel and Syria before they began discussing Israel's withdrawal. The Syrian minister said Israel would have to remove its settlements from the Golan Heights. The minister was interviewed by the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has more details on the negotiations between the Israeli and Syrian delegations:

[Sukenik] Regrettably, it now appears that at the political level, no breakthrough was achieved in negotiations with Syria. Actually, no significant progress was made. At this stage, any other description would only be misleading. A Syrian document of principles, which was handed to Israel recently and only read by a select few, confirms this assertion. The classified document reveals that even now, the Syrians remain unwilling to officially abandon any of the positions presented at the beginning of the talks. This, despite the fact that Rabin tried to meet them half way and recognized the Security Council resolutions which stipulate the formula of land for peace. Similar statements, which were completely negative from Israel's point of view, were made several days ago by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during a meeting with Acting Secretary of State Eagleburger. Israel also received details of this classified meeting.

An analysis of the public positions expressed by the Syrian leadership that was carried out by knowledgeable Israelis, coupled with the material we recounted earlier in this report, reinforces the disappointing summation of the sixth round of talks in Washington. Even now, the Syrians remain unwilling to reciprocate in kind to the Israeli gestures. The Syrians refuse to sign a full peace agreement with Israel or to reach peace independently of developments on the other tracks. They reject any talk of normalization. The Syrians also reject any interim accord or gradual confidence-building steps. They even refuse to explicitly recognize Israel's right to exist. According to their statements, and the papers they handed the Israelis, Syria is, at the most, ready to sign an agreement ending the state of war between the two countries, in return for a complete Israeli withdrawal from all of the Golan Heights.

The prime minister and his staff are clearly aware of these facts. The negotiations will continue in order to fully exploit what nevertheless seems to mark the beginning of a change: the readiness to talk about peace, the improved atmosphere between the delegations, and several public statements, which as noted, have so far received no expression in Syria's official positions in the negotiations. It is no wonder then, that despite the euphoria in the media, Rabin's associates report that the prime minister intends to close the sack of goodwill gestures and flexibility, until it is made clear that this is worth his while.

Air Force Chief on Opposition's Abilities

TA2709135192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (ROSH HASHANA supplement) in Hebrew 27 Sep 92 pp 1, 2, 3

[Interview with Major General Herzl Budinger, Air Force commander, by Ron Ben-Yishay on the occasion of Rosh Hashana; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Budinger] The main threat to the State of Israel is the narrowing of the qualitative gap between us and the air forces of our neighbors. Today, for the first time since the establishment of the state, fighter-bombers of the Arab air forces are technically capable of penetrating the heart of Israel; they always had the quantitative edge. In the past, however, the outdated MiG's did not have sufficient range, fuel, and payload to get here and cause real damage.

Technologically, their planes were inferior and our supremacy enabled us to intercept them. The situation has changed today. Countries in our region are acquiring planes whose performance is similar to ours. Although they need to train more and improve the ability of their pilots, what we basically retain is the qualitative edge in terms of the human factor and a certain technological gap due to unique Israeli-made components that we introduce in our planes.

[Ben-Yishay] You do not mention the surface-to-surface missiles.

[Budinger] They also have surface-to-surface missiles whose only disadvantage at the moment is their inaccuracy. They can inflict damage on spread-out targets, such as a wide urban area, but they would not be so effective against small targets such as vital civilian installations or military facilities. If in the future they acquire nonconventional warheads for those missiles, their inaccuracy will become moot and they will become a real threat.

[Ben-Yishay] If he sees everything crumbling around him, might Saddam Husayn not launch a "kamikaze-like" strike against us?

[Budinger] He might launch a strike, but it would not be "kamikaze-like" because he does not have the power. It will not yield him anything other than, perhaps, a boost in his reputation. The rationale of such leaders occasionally strays from our assessments, however, and that is why we assume that a development is possible.

[Ben-Yishay] Are you saying that even if Saddam were to launch a missile attack and send a couple of bombers, Israel would not sustain any real damage?

[Budinger] I think such a strike would have no real effect. In my opinion, it would be a symbolic act that would trigger a public fuss, but no more than that. The real damage would be less than the damage inflicted during the Gulf war, because his freedom of action has been curtailed. Given the military sanctions and the pressure exerted on him, I think he poses less of a threat than in the past. Therefore, Iraq is probably quite unlikely to take any action at present.

[Ben-Yishay] Iran is rapidly procuring missiles and trying to obtain nonconventional weapons. Does this buildup pose a direct threat to Israel?

[Budinger] Iran is an enigma; it takes conflicting courses of action. The Muslim world, too, still wonders where and what Iran is striving for and is anxiously following its actions. In an interview with DEFENSE NEWS about six months ago, General Salah Halbi, Egyptian chief of staff, was asked whether he thinks Iran is a key threat to his country. He replied that Iran constitutes a threat not only to Egypt, but to the entire Middle East, and to a certain extent, to world peace. In my opinion, if Egypt sees it this way, then we also have reason to be worried.

[Ben-Yishay] Do we have a proper answer to the possibility of Iran's acquiring long-range missiles and nonconventional warheads?

[Budinger] We know for a fact that Iran is building up its army and trying to acquire a long-range and nonconventional missile capability. They have bought Scud-C missiles from North Korea which cannot reach Israeli territory, and now they are buying Nodong missiles with a 1,000-km range. Nevertheless, I do not want to say what Israel can or should do to preempt this potential threat. The last time I made a public comment on the issue the commander of the Iranian Air Force declared a state of alert and announced that he would retaliate against us. I do not want to cause any unnecessary tensions in the Middle East. Consequently, I will not elaborate on what we do or must do in the face of the Iranian threat. I will only say that as a military man and as a man who must defend Israel against threats from the air, I closely follow every weapon capable of reaching us and I try to prepare the proper answer to every threat—while it is still in the making—in the event that it becomes real.

[Ben-Yishay] The question keeps coming up: Could we have dealt with the Scuds in west Iraq better than the Americans?

[Budinger] I suppose so. These missiles bothered us more than they upset the allies' overall war effort. Consequently, we would have dealt only with the missiles and not gone for the whole of Iraq, as the allies did. Had we concentrated on this mission only, I think we would have drastically reduced the number of missiles fired at us. I cannot, however, say that we would have prevented the missile attacks altogether.

[Ben-Yishay] A few things hindered our actions against the launchers: The Americans kept long-range intelligence from us, at least in the initial stages of the war, and then there was the problem of flying over Jordanian or Saudi territory en route to the Scud sites. Tension has once again risen in the Gulf recently. Do you think that in the present circumstances a strike on the launcher sites would be easier?

[Budinger] No, it would not be easier, but whose airspace would be violated would be a political decision. This would probably be affected by the intensity of the problem Israel would have to answer. I suppose that if we were attacked with missiles or bombers and the civilian population was seriously hurt it would be easier for the decisionmakers to allow us to violate the airspace of a neighboring country. I do not want to go into the complex considerations such a resolution involves. We are prepared to deal with the fall of surface-to-surface missiles on our territory, both on the battlefront and on the home front. We undertook this as a key mission. It is more central to us today than it has ever been. I would like to assert that today we have the ability to meet every eventuality in the foreseeable future, and this ability will become even better in the future.

[Ben-Yishay] To what extent does the new F-15 deal with the Saudis affect the balance of power in the air between us and the countries of the region?

[Budinger] As is known, the F-15 is one of the most advanced aircraft in the world. I do not think any other aircraft resemble its features. The 72 planes that the United States will supply to the Saudis over the next five years have combat abilities possessed by no other F-15 bought by the Saudis in the past. It poses a new problem which we did not think we would have to tackle. It requires a different distribution of the missions the Air Force will be called on to carry out. We are told that Saudi Arabia is a moderate country and a U.S. ally and that, consequently, there is no chance of these aircraft being used against us. To Americans who visit Israel and make this argument I show the carpet in my room, and tell them that it was given to the commander of the Israeli Air Force by the commander of the Iranian Air Force when the shah was in power. In those days we used to send Phantom pilots to train on simulators in Iran. We did not have the money to buy such expensive equipment, and the Iranians agreed to put it at our disposal. Who would have thought then that the situation would be reversed and that within a few months Iran would become an avowed enemy of the Americans. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Yishay] Are the Army's electronic observation posts on Mt. Hermon and the Golan Heights vital to the Air Force for dealing with the air threat from the east?

For example, could a satellite or an AWACS not substitute the early-warning and intelligence provided by those facilities?

[Budinger] As long as we do not have a peace treaty—and we are talking about a country that is in a state of war with Israel—every means of obtaining sufficient warning and intelligence must be positioned in the best possible place. In certain cases and circumstances a satellite and early warning planes could replace electronic observation posts on the ground.

[Ben-Yishay] To what extent does the Syrian Air Force pose a threat to us?

[Budinger] The Syrian Air Force, just like the Syrian Army, has become very strong in recent years. They have surpassed us quantitatively and they have considerably improved qualitatively. The Syrian MiG-29's and Sukhoi-24's are very advanced. They are negotiating with the Russians the purchase of SA-10 missile batteries whose features are similar to those of the Patriots, and they are procuring surface-to-surface missiles. You look at all these Syrian deals and see an impressive buildup. As a military man I believe we must prepare for the ability, rather than the intentions, of the other side. Intentions and plans for surprise strikes are very hard to assess. We have been surprised by them in the past. Therefore, we must prepare in the face of the Syrian ability as it is and, in my opinion, we have a very good response to it. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Yishay] To what degree is the Dotan affair still harming the Air Force?

[Budinger] The Dotan affair will cast a heavy shadow for many years to come. Our ties with the Americans are confounded by a certain suspicion on their part, which we have been unable to erase to this day. In addition, the freedom we enjoyed in our procurement ties and within the Defense Ministry's procurement systems has been impaired. These two problems are being gradually resolved. What is more difficult is overcoming the impact of this affair on the Air Force. People's surprise at the fact that such a thing could have happened here and the acts taken to prevent recurrence—for many people, all these impaired the joy of life and creation. [sentence as published] The affair had a profound impact, and to some extent it still hampers the Air Force's daily functioning. I sincerely hope that eventually this effect will wear off.

[Ben-Yishay] With the successful launch of the Arrow, is the Israeli antiballistic missile project on its way to triumph at last?

[Budinger] The industry should be congratulated on its success. Had this test failed, as its precursors did, the project's future would have been highly uncertain. Although the Americans had once stated in writing that they regard the Arrow as an invention on an international level, we assume that in the event of failure, they would have recommended scrapping it. We should remember, however, that the completion of a fully operational antiballistic missile system will take eight to 10 years.

[Ben-Yishay] And what about the auxiliary systems—the radars that are supposed to spot enemy missiles and guide the Arrow toward them?

[Budinger] I assume they will be ready on time. We know how to make radars—with and without the Americans—and we have a lot of experience in that area.

[Ben-Yishay] At present, the Americans have an antiballistic missile plan of their own. Is it possible that the two plans will be at some point merged into a joint American-Israeli project?

[Budinger] This possibility will no doubt be discussed at some stage. A joint project which has the backing of a superpower stands a good chance of materializing, perhaps even more quickly. Our own project, which stands on its own, has a lesser chance of being carried out because of budgetary problems. The cost of an Arrow system is similar to the cost of an aircraft deal.

[Ben-Yishay] But the U.S. antiballistic missile will not be operational before 2000.

[Budinger] That is what I think. The development of such systems usually takes a decade or longer.

[Ben-Yishay] When will the decision on the Air Force's next combat aircraft be made?

[Budinger] Next year, before summer.

[Ben-Yishay] Has any initial decision been made as yet?

[Budinger] No. Although it is generally believed we have decided but are stalling in order to get better terms from the rival aircraft manufacturers, it is not true. There are lots of factors that need to be examined both in theory and practice. We will run an in-depth test of the planes in flight abroad. We may even bring them to Israel and fly them here. We do have F-16's, but the F-16's we are now discussing are different. We have no F-18's, so we will bring them here and try them out. We will batter these planes quite seriously before we decide on the one to recommend. I stress: We will recommend, because the final buyer is the defense establishment, not the Air Force.

[Ben-Yishay] And to conclude: How do you feel a year after assuming the post of Air Force commander?

[Budinger] I think I am doing well in the tasks I had set for myself with regard to the Air Force's routine operations. I am still uncertain with regard to the materialization of long-range plans. I will be better equipped to answer this question next year, at about the same time. Meanwhile, a Happy New Year to everyone, and if we receive good tidings concerning navigator Ron Arad, what else can we ask for?

Government Said Neglecting Socioeconomic Issues

TA2509140392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Sep 92 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Bread and Butter"]

[Text] Not a day goes by, sometimes even less, that the prime minister does not make some statement about the peace process, whether it is necessary or not. Although a talking prime minister is better than a prime minister who keeps silent about peace, talk about peace is not everything. Voters will judge the current government by its ability to solve unemployment and poverty. One must bear in mind that the Likud did not fall because it dragged its feet on the peace talks, but because of domestic inadequacies, excessive blabber, and particularly because of its failure over bread-and-butter issues.

Today nations march on their stomachs. Governments rise and fall, not over foreign issues but over more mundane matters such as supplying the most elementary personal needs: food, work, and housing. Twenty-seven years ago, speaking to his then-counterpart Golda Meir, French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville predicted that in the future foreign ministers would have to be more knowledgeable about the price of oil and interest calculations than about foreign affairs. His prediction has come true, and in spades. Europe is totally immersed in problems related to economy, finances, unemployment, and so forth. Bush is losing points in the polls and might lose the presidency only because of his economic failures. Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer was right this week when he said that this government might fall over its failure in domestic affairs.

Indeed, as it enters its third month in power, the oppressive feeling is that the government treats social and economic issues as a stepchild. "The government has not conducted any real debate on these issues," says Economics Minister Shim'on Shetrit, "except for a 'marathon debate' about the state budget during which we were asked to make 120 resolutions in one sitting." Labor's mouthpiece DAVAR publishes commentaries daily criticizing what is beginning to look like neglect, if not a blunder, on the part of the government. "One road to Gush 'Etzyon costs more than all the budget allocations approved for the restoration of poor neighborhoods; notwithstanding all the teaching hours added by the government, students are still learning less than in the 1980's," one article said. "It is a shame that the days of grace are being wasted and that a change is nowhere to be seen," wrote another. "You should change the name of your party from Labor to Unemployment," wrote a third.

If immigration came to a halt due to the Likud's failings, as Labor's election propaganda had it, the opposite also holds true. The fact that the waves of immigration have not resumed denotes a lack of confidence in the economic and social polices of the Rabin government. Although we will soon have 250,000 unemployed, a labor affairs minister remains to be appointed. Over there, in Russia, they cannot discern any change.

Immediately upon rising to power Menahem Begin realized the importance of executing a speedy social revolution. He understood that alongside the peace process—and he made a real breakthrough—he must "do good by the people" to ensure his party's stay in power. His urban renewal project, for which $2 billion was raised, half of it abroad, was a great success and restored the lost honor of Israel's poor. Labor made many promises during the election campaign, but it has yet to do something to give hope to the 720,000 inhabitants of poor neighborhoods and 220,000 unemployed. "The state budget does not provide for even one job," Minister Ora Namir stated in an internal meeting.

A lot has been said and written about "the lack of change" in the state budget. Namir believes that the political level gave in to the civil servants, instead of determining a policy. A forecast of 12 percent unemployment in the next two years is bad news. In contrast, the promise that unemployment will start declining in 1994 looks more like wishful thinking than a well-founded plan. "A Moda'i-like budget made up to look like Shohat's," one commentator wrote. Within four to five years a country like Mexico managed to attract $30 billion in foreign investment by creating a climate of a free economy, stability, and cheap labor. Here, however, there is no feeling that the country is moving toward a free economy. There is no real privatization; the state insists on keeping its control over land; there is no revision of the laws on investment and capital; there is no clear monetary policy. Given this grim and unimaginative picture, how and why should big investors come here?

The joke about President Ford was that he could not think and chew gum at the same time. The impression given by the Rabin government is that it cannot make peace while talking peace and dealing with internal troubles. Unlike Shamir, Rabin is knowledgeable about economic affairs, but he is totally absorbed in the peace process. Neither the government nor the ministerial committees are doing anything beyond what is immediately necessary. Total inaction.

If Labor has a socioeconomic message, it is not reflected in the government's actions. Rabin is not carrying it, and the ministers do not feel his leadership on this issue. "Changing the order of priorities" remains a coined phrase. Nothing has been done except for halting construction ("not enough of that either," according to one economist), not even some spectacular action to make it look as if they were doing something.

The "window of opportunity" frequently mentioned by Rabin applies not only to the country and the peace process, but also to his party. Seven autonomies in the West Bank and three interim arrangements with Syria will not save Labor from its downfall if a million Israelis lose hope of living a honorable life.

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives for Visit 29 Sep

JN2909112792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Amman, 29 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president and a member of the Revolution Command Council, arrived in Amman today on a brief visit to Jordan.

Ramadan said in a statement—cited by an INA correspondent in Amman—that he is visiting Jordan on the instructions of President Saddam Husayn to convey congratulations in the name of his excellency the president and on behalf of the Iraqi people to his brother His Majesty King Husayn on his successful surgery and the return of his majesty healthy and recoverd to his homeland and people, the sons of sisterly Jordan.

The vice president was met by Jordan's Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, a number of Jordanian officials, and Iraq's ambassador in Amman.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy left Baghdad earlier today. He said that the Iraqi people's participation in the celebrations of their brothers in Jordan on His Majesty King Husayn's return underscores the strong fraternal ties between the Iraqi and Jordanian brothers—leadership and people.

He said that President Saddam Husayn's honorable gesture toward his brother His Majesty King Husayn is evidence of the love and pride the Iraqis have for their brothers in Jordan. He added that it also reflects the developing bilateral relations that are strengthened each day for the sake of the common Arab objectives in the service of the two sisterly countries' march.

Meets With King

JN2909153392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan at the Royal Hashemite Court today. Ramadan conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn congratulations about his recovery and his safe return home from his brother His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, and from the government and people of fraternal Iraq.

His Majesty King Husayn asked the Iraqi envoy to convey his sincere greetings and best wishes of good health to His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He also said he wishes the fraternal Iraqi people would achieve the progress and loftiness for which they aspire.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Iraqi ambassador to Jordan.

King Receives Congratulatory Cable From 'Arafat

JN2809171592 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] His majesty the king received a congratulatory message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat about his majesty's safe return to the country. In his message, Mr. 'Arafat asserted his keenness to upgrade existing brotherly mutual relations between the two brotherly peoples in the service of the Arab nation. The Palestinian president wished his majesty the king continued health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

King Meets With Kabardino-Balkar Foreign Minister

JN2909162992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received (Anatoliy Yumar), foreign minister of the Kabardino-Balkar Autonomous Republic in the Russian Federation, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. He delivered to his majesty a letter of congratulations, full of amity and friendship to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people on behalf of the Kabardino-Balkar president, people, and government.

His Majesty King Husayn asked the foreign minister to convey his greetings to the president and the Circassian people, stressing that Jordan has been and will remain home for all free people and an advocator of public liberties and the individuals's dignity and human rights. [passage omitted]

King Meets With Amnesty International Delegation

JN2909163692 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] His majesty the king expressed pride in Jordan's achievements in human rights, democracy, and political pluralism.

His majesty asserted during a meeting with an Amnesty International delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court that Jordan presents the democratic model that adheres completely to human rights. The secretary general of Amnesty International, Ian Martin, praised Jordan's democratic position and the positive developments in the democratic process and the commitment to the human rights in accordance with international conventions and laws.

Mr. Martin also praised his majesty's continued call for an Arab human rights charter.

Present at the meeting were the chief of the Royal Court and the Amnesty International delegation.

Abu-Jabir on UAE-Iranian Dispute, Peace Talks

JN2609081092 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Sep 92 pp 26, 23

[Report by Kamil Ghazzawi in New York]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said that a suitable formula to resolve the dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran should be reached.

In an exclusive interview with AL-DUSTUR concerning the Jordanian position about the dispute between the UAE and Iran over the three Gulf islands, he said that the Jordanian position is very clear, and Jordan is against the occupation of the other's land by military force anywhere in the world.

He pointed out that Jordan supports the Arab League resolutions on this dispute. He said an international settlement to the dispute through dialogue should be reached.

Answering a question about the peace talks in Washington, the foreign minister said that so far the negotiations have not resulted in any agreements. He pointed out that this does not mean the negotiations should stop, adding that the talks will take some time and they face some obstacles.

He said that another round of talks is expected to be held next month, but this has not officially been decided yet. The next round will be aimed at continuing the dialogue and reaching formulas that are satisfactory to all parties. [passage omitted]

The minister said what is important is the comprehensiveness and justice of the solution, and this is what has been agreed on by the Arab parties and to which they are still committed. He said there will be not be any Arab concessions that contradict the international resolutions. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Deputies Threaten Resignation

PM2809120192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Sep 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "'Brothers' Threaten Collective Resignations in Support of Two Deputies"]

[Excerpt] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A well-informed source close to the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Jordan said that the movement took a decision a few days ago that its deputies in the Jordanian parliament—21 of them—would resign if either the case of the two detained deputies, Ya'qub Qirrish and Layth Shubaylat, is not settled very quickly, or if they are not referred to the court as soon as possible, or if they are not released on bail.

The source said that his information indicated that Muslim Brotherhood representatives received assurances from six other deputies, most of them belonging to the left-wing Democratic Grouping Bloc, that they would show solidarity and submit similar resignations for the same purpose and reasons.

Meanwhile, well-informed sources in Amman said that the government decided to speed up the procedures in the trial of the Islamic Mobilization organization's defendants in order to contain the political complications of the case. The sources pointed out that it has been decided to begin the trial next Monday.

Sources close to the State Security Court said that the military prosecutor general yesterday informed four of those accused of membership in this organization of the content of the bill of indictment, on the basis of which the trial will be conducted. The four are: Deputy Ya'qub Qirrish, Deputy Layth Shubaylat, Ahmad Ramzi al-Ayyubi, and 'Abd-al-Hamid Idkayk. [passage omitted]

Trial of Two Deputies, Others Begins 29 Sep

JN2909123492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The State Security Court held its first session this morning to look into the case of the Islamic Mobilization Youth Movement.

At the outset, special attorneyships were accepted for the four defendants, who are: Layth Farhan Shubaylat; Ya'qub Jum'ah Qirrish; Ahmad Ramzi al-Ayyubi; and 'Abd-al-Hamid Sadiq Isma'il Idkayk.

Afterward, the president of the court read out the list of charges against the defendants. Deputy Layth Shubaylat was faced with seven charges; Deputy Ya'qub Jum'ah Qirrish, five charges; and Ahmad Ramzi al-Ayyubi and 'Abd-al-Hamid Sadiq Isma'il Idkayk, three charges each.

Lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, head of the defense for defendant Deputy Layth Shubaylat, has demanded that the indictment bill be revoked and that an order be issued releasing defendant Shubaylat, while lawyer Ahmad Abu-'Arqub, head of the defense for Deputy Ya'qub Qirrish, demanded that a decision be issued stating that the court does not have the jurisdiction to look into two of the charges against defendant Qirrish.

Further on Israeli Attacks in Southern Areas

'Guarded Calm' Cited

NC2909121892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Correspondents' reports from the south indicate that guarded calm prevails throughout the combat lines in the south. A security source stated that the raiding Israeli planes drew ground fire from the Lebanese Army.

Nine Dead; Army Returns Fire

NC2909142192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Israeli attacks on southern towns and villages left nine people dead. Israeli forces shelled 'Arab Salim, Iqlim al- Tuffah, Jabal Safi, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', Jba', al-Luwayzah, Mlita, and Zawtar. They also shelled the town of Tyre, targeting a Lebanese Army barracks with four shells. The Army returned fire with various weapons.

Islamic Resistance Issues Statement

NC3009084592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Statement on "Operations and Confrontations Waged by The Resistance Heroes" issued by the Islamic Resistance on 29 September—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Fight them and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

The operations of the past few days in al-Jurmuq were barely over when Muslim resistance fighters, who dedicated themselves to God and turned their bright faces toward martyrdom, surfaced again on the path of total slavery to God, faithfulness to the nation, and loyalty to the true and honorable leadership with a qualitative heroic operation that revived the abundant and lively history of this pioneering resistance and the strong determination and will that have overcome time and its problems. These operations also revived all the determined persistence of our people to retrieve their land and reject a reality of degradation, injustice, and humiliation.

The groups of martyrs Husayn Jabir, Fu'ad Madani, As'ad Shahrur, and Fadi Hariri from the Islamic Resistance carried out al-Wafa' operation, attacking Zionist enemy and agent positions. At 0500 yesterday, the resistance fighters stormed the Rshaf post, where Lahd forces are stationed, raking it and killing everyone including the commander, the agent known as Abu-Sharbil.

The Islamic Resistance statement adds that other resistance groups meanwhile attacked the following positions, where they engaged in clashes: Balat; al-Duhayrah; (Humayyid); Haddathah; al-Jamusah; Bayt Yahun; 'Alman-al-Shumariyah; 'Ali al-Tahir; al- Dabshah; Tuhrah; and al-Suwayda'. Clashes continued until noon, involving various kinds of weapons. The enemy used tanks and helicopters.

The statement continues: We confirm that we will continue our march along this path. We also confirm our constant readiness to donate our lives and blood to renew our pledge to the guardian of the age, al-Hojjah al-Mahdi [the 12th imam, whom the Shiites expect to reappear], may God speed his reappearance; to the leader of the Islamic nation Ayatollah 'Ali al-Khamene'i, may God protect him; to the generous nation; our usurped land; and our great martyrs. The resistance will continue to be true to its policy, approaches, and march.

Phalangist Leader Rebuts 'Confrontation' Claim

PM2809132392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 92 p 2

[Interview with Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah by unidentified correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Has the Phalangist Party entered into a confrontation with the state?
[Sa'adah] We will not be entering into confrontation with anyone. What we are doing is the least a major party is supposed to do after the abduction of one of its Politburo members. We have been making statements since our comrade Butrus Khawand's abduction, and our statements are not limited to verbal protest. We are trying to balance the gravity of the incident and the crime and the method of protest. The popular base is in a state of turmoil, which is why we kept control of the situation and took no measures except what we can term civilized measures. We kept away from negative aspects as far as possible, because we are very anxious to recover our comrade Butrus Khawand. We also care about the achievements made in the march of peace and national accord. But as for calling this a confrontation, I have said before that we will not be provoked into embarking on any action that is incompatible with our platform. Even if the state wants a confrontation with us, all we want is for ourselves and the state to confront all questions that fall outside the scope of the accord march. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe that the state is seeking to eliminate the Phalangist Party from the al-Ta'if accord, in which it was a principal participant?
[Sa'adah] I do not know whether there is a deliberate plan. But we as a party decided not to enter the elections and to resign from the government. I would like to repeat what I said in the Phalangist meeting a few weeks ago, namely that only a very few of the al-Ta'if accord symbols remain. Only 17 of those who took part in

discussing and endorsing the al-Ta'if document have returned to the Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does Minister Buwayz's nomination in the elections weaken the Phalangist Party's position?
[Sa'adah] What strengthens our and others' position is the the opposition forces' organization. And the opposition could be strengthened by new deputies who win but are not satisfied with what accompanies the elections and their results.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the party's position on what occurred recently in the Kasrawan elections?
[Sa'adah] Our position has not changed, and the party will not participate in the Kasrawan elections. [passage omitted]

Liberation Bloc Nominates Birri Chamber Speaker

NC2809195592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Statement by Liberation Bloc Deputy Ahmad Suwayd followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondent after the meeting of the Parliamentary Liberation Bloc at Minister Nabih Birri's home in Beirut on 28 September—recorded]

[Text] [Suwayd] The Liberation Bloc met this evening with two items on its agenda. The first was to discuss the Bloc's political program while the second was to discuss the topic of electing the Chamber of Deputies speaker. It was unanimously agreed after the discussions to: first, approve the draft of the political program, entrust the contacts' committee with the task of presenting it to all the colleagues from all constituencies, and invite them to join this Bloc as founding members; and second, nominate Mr. Nabih Birri as speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, hold the necessary contacts with the deputies, and ask them to support this nomination.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ahmad, regarding the Bloc's draft program, have the basic ideas of this draft been proposed previously to the deputies of the parliamentary blocs?
[Suwayd] This draft was discussed at the Liberation Bloc's first session. The formulation committee was then asked to finalize it, provided that it remains a draft until after it is presented to all our colleagues from the various regions to approve it, if they so wish, and join the Bloc.

Nabih Birri Sees 'Optimistic Atmosphere' Ahead

PM2809124592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 92 p 1

[Tariq Tarshishi report: "Minister Nabih Birri Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Syrian Redeployment Governed by Treaty and No Longer Linked to al-Ta'if Accord"]

[Excerpt] Beirut—Amal Movement leader and Minister Nabih Birri told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the issue of the Syrian forces' redeployment in Lebanon "is no longer linked to the stipulations of the al-Ta'if accord. It is governed by the relationship between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments and the treaty on brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two countries."

This is in the knowledge that Damascus does not object to the Lebanese Army's deployment in any area where it believes it can now deploy. Proof of this is the fact that it recently took control of the Shaykh 'Abadallah barracks in Ba'labakk and other official buildings in the al-Biqa' area.

About the aim of his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad a few days ago, he said it was "to inquire about the picture of the near future. In other words, to explore the phase that will follow 15 October—the start of the new Chamber's term. And I see an optimistic atmosphere on the horizon."

Birri also said that "the next government will be pretty comprehensive and broadly-based. It will comprise 30 ministers at the maximum and 24 ministers at the minimum so as to be able to rescue the economic situation, further consolidate the security situation, and tackle the developments that could emerge on the negotiations front in Washington." [passage omitted]

Invitation to Multilateral Peace Talks Received

NC2909131192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Lebanon today received an invitation to attend meetings of the Committee on Refugee Affairs within the framework of the multilateral peace talks in Canada in November. Canadian Ambassador to Lebanon Martin Collacott, who lives in Damascus, today handed the invitation to Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, acting Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Ambassador al-Hasan told the Canadian ambassador that Lebanon has reservations about participating in the multilateral talks before progress is made in the bilateral talks. Al-Hasan also stressed Lebanon's opposition to the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon.

Iranian Charge Meets al-Ma'luf; Cited on Abu Musa

NC2909162192 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Nasri al-Ma'luf met with Iranian Charge d'Affaires Homayun 'Alizadeh today. 'Alizadeh said discussions dealt with developing bilateral cooperation, adding that he gave al-Ma'luf a report concerning Abu Musa Island and issues of the Gulf region.

He added: I asserted to the foreign minister Iran's eagerness to resolve all issues peacefully. I placed special emphasis on efforts and attempts made in recent weeks, especially the Abu Dhabi meetings. I told Minister al-Ma'luf that some parties that exaggerate this issue ought to refrain from doing so because further complication does not solve the problem.

'Alizadeh added: Minister al-Ma'luf adopted a good position on this issue, and he supports the view that we explained concerning Iran's peaceful policy on solving its problems with others.

Declining to name the countries that are exaggerating this issue, he said that al-Ma'luf supported Syria's efforts to contain the issue and keep it confined to the region and to the two countries.

Salman Denies al-Asad, Rabin To Meet

NC2909150392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1401 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo 29 Sep (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman denied reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will possibly meet in Morocco soon.

In a statement to Cairo-based AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today, the minister rejected Israel's claims that Syria intends to rent the Golan to Israel. Homelands cannot be leased, and the Golan is a symbol of Syria's national pride, he said.

Salman said the Israeli allegations, on the other hand, constitute an Israeli acknowledgement that the Golan is not Israeli territory, as Israel used to claim.

The Syrian information minister urged Israel to take advantage of the current historic opportunity as it sits face-to-face with the Arabs, who are showing full readiness for peace based on complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

He said Israel's procrastination over the main issue—the withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories—was the main reason for the lack of tangible progress during the sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks, recently held in Washington.

On Syrian-Arab relations and reports that the implementation of the Damascus Declaration signed by Syria, Egypt, and the six Gulf Cooperation Council states has been frozen, the Syrian information minister said the implementation of the Declaration, especially the economic and security aspects of it, is not linked to the desire of Syria or Egypt alone, but also to the desire of the other parties to the Declaration.

He explained that the Gulf states left the security and military aspect of the declaration to bilateral agreements.

On the American accusations that Syria sponsors terrorism, Salman stressed that the accusations are not made because Syria is really engaged in terrorist acts, but as a reaction to Syria's position toward Israel.

On another accusation that Syria is importing chemicals to produce nerve gas, the Syrian minister said these stories are fabricated for political motives.

He asserted that Syria is calling for a Middle East free of all kinds of mass destruction weapons.

Al-Shar' on Redeployment, Peace Talks, Rebuilding

NC3009075792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told our correspondent in New York that redeployment of the Syrian forces in Lebanon is not the primary issue. Everything can be discussed between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments, he said, noting that contacts and exhortations would keep the provision of aid to help rebuild Lebanon alive in the minds of able countries. He said that rich Arab countries should be the first to provide aid to Lebanon to encourage others to follow suit. [passage omitted]

The text of the interview with Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' by the Voice of Lebanon's correspondent in New York Nuhad al-Hayik follows:

[Begin recording] [Al-Hayik] In your speech to the UN General Assembly, you spoke of promised aid to Lebanon. Were you expressing hopes that promises should be fulfilled or are there contacts to get things started?
[Al-Shar'] I was not only expressing hopes. We held contacts with Western foreign ministers about the importance of helping Lebanon to rebuild after the destruction of the civil war.

[Al-Hayik] What do you expect [words indistinct]?
[Al-Shar'] Contacts and exhortations by Syria and other Arab countries with various others would help keep the issue of aiding Lebanon alive, which might prompt rich countries to provide aid to rebuild Lebanon. Of course, the aid should first come from the rich Arab countries to encourage others to assist.

[Al-Hayik] After your meeting with acting U.S. Secretary of State Eagleburger, [words indistinct] Syrian plan to be conveyed by the party from the U.S. to Israel and would affect the talks positively. What is your comment about these rumors?
[Al-Shar'] We conveyed to the U.S. side clear ideas outlined in the paper that the Syrian delegation put forward during the peace talks in Washington. We told the U.S. party that Syria is concerned about a comprehensive peace process. We said Israel should not think about achieving comprehensive peace in the region without total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. Of course, meetings between the Syrian and Lebanese Governments can be held any time. There are no difficulties in the way of direct contacts between the two countries at the highest level. [end recording]

Al-'Allaf on Meaning of 'Comprehensive Solution'

NC2709194492 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian negotiating delegation, by MBC correspondent Mahir al-Shalabi; date, place not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Al-Shalabi] ... that not reaching a peaceful settlement in the region will lead to a war and a continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Do you believe that such a statement by Yitzhaq Rabin contains a covert threat to Syria?
[Al-'Allaf] If the intention behind it is to threaten, it contradicts the spirit of the peace process and does not

show Israeli devotion or the presence of a real seriousness when it says that it wants peace. We would like to understand and interpret good intentions. From his statement, we understand that peace is necessary in the region, because it is a volatile region. This situation stemming from the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories cannot last—the situation in the occupied territories cannot last; therefore, he is warning of the dangers of explosions in the situation if a comprehensive, just, and permament peace is not realized soon.

[Al-Shalabi] Let us assume for argument's sake that Israel says it will withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights within the framework of security arrangements agreed upon by the two sides. What is the Syrian understanding of a comprehensive solution?
[Al-'Allaf] The comprehensive solution is for this solution—a comprehensive, just, and permament settlement—to be implemented on all fronts, and by all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. We call on Israel to accept the spirit of the peace process that was defined by the two co-sponsors of the peace talks. They called on us to establish a comprehensive peace that includes all sides, and to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 on all these fronts. We believe that this comprehensive peace is the only guarantee for introducing true peace in the region. Such a peace is in the interest of the Arab countries—and even more so for Israel.

Commentary Views Israeli 'Intransigence'

JN2709153692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The sixth round of the peace talks ended in much disappointment and without any significant progress in the peace process, although substantial issues were discussed during that round. But the most important outcome of that round is that it has revealed the disappointment of those who wagered on a change in Israel's position following the election of a new Israeli Government headed by Yitzhaq Rabin.

After a month-long round of talks, interrupted by the Israeli side for consultations, it seems that peace prospects are still threatened with the danger by the intransigence of Israel, which adopts a special concept of peace conflicting with the starting point of the initiative on which the peace process was based. By this concept, Israel wants land and peace together and wants to impose capitulation on the Arabs and force them to relinquish their lands and rights.

Israel does not want to implement UN Resolutions 242 and 338 calling for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in line with the principle of the inadmissibility of a forcible acquisition of land. Israel, which refuses even to utter the word withdrawal, wants to bypass the core of the peace process in order to achieve its other goal of normalization. In other words, it wants to bypass the two international resolutions calling for withdrawal first.

This concept, declared by the Israeli delegation during the sixth round of talks, is based on a special vision of solutions aimed at saving Israel from its problems and making gains for it such as penetrating the Arab arena with the peace of normalization, while continuing to occupy the Arab territories in accordance with a concept that is no longer acceptable, as it is only aimed at achieving Israel's security at the expense of the Arab land and security being threatened with the Israeli aggression.

Israel behaves as if the Arabs were occupying its lands and usurping its rights. So, it demands security guarantees at the expense of the Arabs' lands and security, in a very strange way and with a rigid vision that escapes from the peace process rather than serves its march, despite the recent change in the Israeli Government and the assumption of power by the Labor Party, which knows how to deal with the world in terms of propaganda after the Likud distorted Israel's image in the world public opinion.

The essence of peace, as the world understands it, means withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories and recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. None of the deceptive tactics can change this fact that the international resolutions contain. Israel should understand this fact and abandon any wagering on the possibility of forcing the Arabs to surrender or relinquish their rights.

Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish Water Committee Meets

JN2809203892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2025 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Damascus—Meetings of the joint Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish technical committee began this evening in Damascus to discuss issues related to water shared by the three countries on the experts level.

During the session, the conferees reviewed and approved the agenda. The committee will resume its session tomorrow morning.

Khaddam Meets With Belgian Delegation 27 Sep

JN2709132592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with the Belgian parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. (Jangul), head of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Belgian Parliament, today at 1130.

Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, and the Belgian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks dealt with the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Al-Shar' Meets PLO's Qaddumi, Iran's Velayati

JN2609185892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings in New York yesterday. They evaluated the results of the latest round of peace talks in Washington.

Earlier, al-Shar' met with Rashid Bin-'Abdallah, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister. Talks during the two meetings centered on the current dispute between the UAE and Iran over the Abu Musa Island and Syria's desire to solve this dispute by cordial, peaceful means and by direct contacts, serving good-neighborly relations and cooperation between the two Muslim states and contributing toward strengthening Arab-Iranian ties and realizing security and stability in the Gulf.

Al-Shar' also met with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo and discussed the Washington peace talks, bilateral relations, and ways of promoting them.

Harbah, UAE Counterpart Review Cooperation

JN2609171692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah met with Major General Hammudah Bin-'Ali, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of interior, this morning.

The two ministers reviewed the prospects for cooperation between b ,th fraternal countries and developing the bilateral ties, consecrated by President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highnes Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

They also discussed means to bolster the ties of joint cooperation between both interior ministries through the draft agreement for joint cooperation between the agencies of both countries' interior ministries that the Syrian Arab Republic's Interior Ministry proposed to serve the common interests of the two fraternal countries. Both ministers agreed to sign the draft agreement at a later date.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Warns of 'Strong Retaliatory Action'

BK2909164292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1621 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Jalalabad, Afghanistan, Sept 29 (AFP)—Dissident Afghan leader Golboddin Hekmatyar said Tuesday that planes from a foreign country were taking part in what he alleged were ceasefire violations by government-allied militia forces.

Addressing a press conference here, he did not identify the country, but said the Shindand airbase controlled by his Hezb-e- Eslami faction in the western region of Afghanistan was being pounded by foreign and militia aircraft, despite the ceasefire agreement a month ago.

Hekmatyar warned of "strong retaliatory action ... if the continuing violations of the ceasefire do not cease by Thursday."

The Hezb leader's first press conference since the August fighting in which his forces rained rockets on Kabul, killing and injuring thousands of people, was also attended by reporters from the northwestern Pakistan border city of Peshawar.

He accused interim Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani of reneging on the agreement he signed with him September 18.

He said Rabbani had made a commitment to stop the bombardment of Shindand and withdraw militia units from the capital, but alleged that Rabbani had made contradictory statements at the weekend by claiming that militia had been integrated with the regular Afghan forces.

Hekmatyar slammed Rabbani's accusations that Pakistani fundamentalist party Jamiat-e Eslami was aiding the Hezb with arms. "We have so many resources that we can even help Pakistan if it requires our assistance," he said.

Hekmatyar also warned Rabbani not to try to prolong his agreed tenure of four months which is to expire October 28. "If he makes such an attempt if would be a grave mistake," Hekmatyar warned.

In Islamabad on Sunday, Rabbani said Afghanistan's political future would be decided by an 18-member commission comprising two members from each mojahedin party.

Army Chief of Staff 'Seriously Hurt' in Explosion

BK2909140892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Kabul, Sept 29 (AFP)—The Afghan army's chief of staff was seriously hurt when a remotely-detonated bomb blew up under his car in Kabul Tuesday, army sources said.

General Delawar and three other passengers were wounded in the attack, which killed Delawar's chauffeur and a passerby on the street, the sources said.

The general was taken to the 400-bed military hospital for urgent medical treatment. His condition was reported as "serious", the sources added.

The 8.30 a.m. explosion, caused by an electrically-wired tank or artillery shell buried in the road, could be heard several kilometres (miles) away from the Microrayon housing estate where it occurred.

Delawar, which means "brave," a Tajik from Kapisa province to the north of Kabul, was born Mohammad Asef Kohi.

A professional infantry soldier, he rose through the ranks to command the 1st Army Corps in Kabul during the Moscow-backed rule of President Najibollah.

Later he became Najibollah's chief of staff, replacing General Shahnawaz Tanai, who defected to the Hezbe-Eslami faction of the then rebel Mojahedin after failing to overthrow Najibollah in a coup attempt.

Delawar himself defected to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud of the Jamiat-e Eslami faction of Mojahadin, before the April 1992 fall of the Najibollah regime. Mas'ud is now the Afghan defence minister.

Agenda for Council on Reconciliation Discussed

LD2709164692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Instructed by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, the chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the first meeting of the commission for calling the Council of Solution and Settlement [Hal ol Aqd] was chaired today by esteemed Sayed Norollah Emad at Delkosha palace.

In accordance with the agenda, the meeting discussed topics concerning the convocation of the Council of Solution and Settlement, and the necessary measures were adopted about the work of the commission.

Bangladesh

India's Attempts at Forcible Repatriation Foiled

BK3009101892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Bangladesh Rifles (?foiled) two attempts by Indian BSF [Border Security Force] to push 41 people into Bangladesh through Benapol, Jadabpur, and Sadikpur borders yesterday. Since the beginning of this month the Indian BSF, under its so-called Operation Push Back, made a number of attempts to send Bengali-speaking people to Bangladesh.

The leader of the opposition and Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina, has expressed her deep concern at the push-back operation by India. She wondered why this operation is being conducted after summit-level talks between the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India in New Delhi last May. She called for resolving the issue through discussions, understanding, and (?humane) approach to strengthen regional cooperation.

Repatriation of Burmese Leads to Violence at Camp

Three Dead in Clash

BK2509164092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By Gholam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 25 (AFP)—Violence broke out in a Burmese refugee camp Friday, leaving three refugees killed and many others injured after police fired on some 15,000 rioting inmates, a Bangladesh Home Ministry official said.

One refugee died on the spot and two others en route to hospital, Home Secretary Monzoorul Karim told AFP.

Karim said police had arrested some 110 refugees from the Dhuapalang camp in southeastern Bangladesh, most of whom were found to be carrying lethal weapons.

Police and paramilitary troops had been sent to the scene and the situation was now under control, he added.

Sources at the district town of Cox's Bazar, close to the camp, said by telephone that bodies of the three victims were brought to hospital for post mortems and that senior officials had rushed to the camp.

Initial reports from the camp indicated one dead and many wounded—including the deputy district police chief—a home ministry official earlier said, adding that paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) had been called in to reinforce security.

He said police had used batons and tear gas prior to opening fire on a crowd of 15,000 Muslim refugees, who were protesting their planned repatriation to Burma.

The sources in Cox's Bazar had earlier quoted witnesses who put the number of refugee protestors in the hundreds. The witnesses said the Rohingyas had set off homemade bombs and thrown stones, injuring at least six policemen, after police cordoned off the Dhuapalang camp to stop demonstrations.

The camp holds 50,000 refugees.

Some inmates attacked the camp guards before going on the rampage, the home ministry official said, adding that he had no further details on the number of casualties.

An estimated 280,000 Burmese Muslim refugees, known as Rohingyas, are currently housed in 20 camps near the Burmese border. The Rohinghyas started flooding into Bangladesh in March last year alleging atrocities by Rangoon troops.

A senior government official here, speaking on condition of anonymity, blamed some foreign and local representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), for inciting the refugees to protest their repatriation.

Forty-seven refugees returned home Tuesday as part of an unannounced repatriation process, which the Bangladesh state-run media described as "voluntary."

The UNHCR said they were unable to confirm whether the repatriations were voluntary.

The senior official expressed concern over the involvement of a section of UNHCR volunteers in the repatriation issue, warning that the government would be forced to take action if any UNHCR personnel were found to be acting beyond their jurisdiction.

Security was tightened in the camps after some 10,000 inmates demonstrated against Tuesday's repatriations, the first since Dhaka and Rangoon signed an agreement in April.

One witness said demonstrators from Huapalang and two nearby camps blocked the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway Thursday, shouting slogans demanding U.N. intervention to halt the repatriation.

The demonstrators reportedly said they would go back only if the UNHCR was present on the Burmese side of the border during and after repatriation.

The Rangoon military government has so far refused to involve the UNHCR in the process.

Repatriation was scheduled to start May 15, but was halted after the Rohingyas refused to go home without U.N. safety guarantees.

'Voluntary' Repatriations Planned

BK2609153492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Sept 26 (AFP)—Some 1,000 Burmese Muslim refugees, who have volunteered to return home, will be repatriated "in secrecy," a refugee official said here Saturday.

Additional Refugee Commissioner A. Hossam Chowdhury told AFP that neither Friday's violent incident in a nearby camp nor reservations by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) about a previous unannounced repatriation were any "impediment to the process started and we are ready with the next batch."

"The next group will be repatriated any time in secrecy and the press will be informed in due course of time," Chowdhury added.

Earlier, sources said the next group could be repatriated this month.

Some 40 refugees are now awaiting repatriation in Rangikhali Refugee Camp near here, the sources said.

In Dhaka, the Bangladesh government has assured the UNHCR that it is ready to discuss its involvement in the repatriation of some 280,000 Burmese Muslim refugees, known as Rohingyas, a UNHCR press release said Saturday.

It added that Dhaka had also reassured the UNHCR that "no one will be forced to return."

The aid agency's press release came one day after three refugees were killed in anti-repatriation demonstrations Friday in Dhuapalong refugee camp and the unannounced repatriation, described by the state-run media here as voluntary, of 47 refugees on Tuesday.

UNHCR sources said they were still continuing talks with the Bangladesh government on Tuesday's repatriation and could not verify if it was voluntary or not.

The Rohingyas, who fled their homes alleging persecution by Burmese troops, were scheduled to be repatriated in May under an agreement between Bangladesh and Burma, but the process was stalled after they refused to return home without U.N. safety guarantees.

Rangoon's military government denies the persecution charges, but also refuses to permit the UNHCR to monitor the repatriation from its side of the border.

UNHCR Accused of Stalling

BK2909084192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 29 (AFP)—Bangladesh's ruling party newspaper on Tuesday accused staff of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here of trying to stall the repatriation of some 280,000 Burmese Muslim refugees.

The DAILY DINKAL said it had received allegations stating that a particular group in the UNHCR was creating indirect obstacles for the repatriation of the refugees, which was scheduled to start in May under a Bangladesh-Burma agreement.

The repatriation was stalled after the refugees, known as Rohingyas, refused to return home without U.N. guarantees of their safety.

Privately, officials have repeatedly said that some UNHCR and other aid agency staff, particularly Moslems, were obstructing the repatriation process.

A Thai national with the UNHCR was linked to violent anti-repatriation demonstrations last week at Dhuapalong camp that led to the death of three refugees, the newspaper said, quoting government initial investigation reports.

The demonstrations started after the unidentified official "secretly" entered the camp and "incited" the refugees, it said, adding that soon after the Rohingyas started the violent demonstrations.

"Their (the aid agencies) activities depends as long as the refugees stay," it said, implying that the officials had avested interest in maintaining their jobs.

"Leaflets have been distributed in the camps for some time that the refugees should not return home. They were given the impression that permanent homes for them will be ensured here (in Bangladesh)," the newspaper said.

UNHCR officials here were not immediately available for comment, but in the past they have refused to say anything about such allegations.

The pro-government DAILY TELEGRAPH said the government could ask the UNHCR to withdraw staff "creating trouble" in the camps.

The UNHCR in a statement Saturday appealed to the refugees to be calm and refrain from demonstrations or other action which could aggravate the situation.

It said the agency was "greatly concerned" on the continued unrest in the refugee camps and surrounding areas that had led to violence and a "tragic loss of life."

"The UNHCR believes that the underlying cause of the unrest must be addressed and has made concrete proposals to the Bangladesh government in this respect," it said.

The Rohingyas, who fled their homes alleging persecution by Burmese troops, are now sheltered in 20 camps in two Bangladesh frontier districts.

Rangoon's military government denies the persecution charges, but refuses to permit the UNHCR to monitor the repatriation from its side of the border.

The Dhaka government repatriated 47 refugees in secrecy last week.

High-level officials here said the 47 returned voluntarily and more groups would follow "in secrecy" to avoid obstacles in the process. They did not elaborate.

UNHCR Denies Charge

BK2909151992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Sept 29 (AFP)—A U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official here denied charges Tuesday by Bangladesh's ruling party newspaper that the agency was trying to stall the repatriation of some 280,000 Burmese Moslem refugees.

"UNHCR staffs are not involved in any anti-repatriation activities," a spokeswoman for the international agency told AFP. "UNHCR is always supportive of voluntary and safe repatriation and its staff carried out that mandate."

The DAILY DINKAL newspaper said it had received allegations stating that a particular group in the UNHCR was creating indirect obstacles for the repatriation of the refugees, which was scheduled to start in May under a Bangladesh-Burma agreement.

The UNHCR spokeswoman said that the daily had not contacted her agency ahead of filing the report. [passage omitted]

Shanti Bahini Rebels Propose Direct Talks

BK2809155492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Sept 28 (AFP)—Tribal rebels, fighting a 17-year-old insurgency in southeastern Bangladesh, have proposed direct peace talks with the government next month, officials said here Monday.

The Shanti Bahini rebel group proposed sending a high-level five-member delegation for the first ever major meeting with government representatives aimed at ending the long tribal insurgency in three Bangladesh hill districts bordering India and Burma, they said.

The decision was conveyed at an indirect meeting between representatives of the Parbattya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJS or Chittgong hill tracts people's solidarity council) and the government-backed liason committee Monday at the frontier village of Dudukchari near the Khagrachari hill district town.

Last month the rebels announced a unilateral ceasefire and the government ordered troops out of Khagrachari for five days during the meeting.

At the three-hour long meeting the PCJS, the main political organ of the Shanti Bahini guerrilla group, said the delegation, to be headed by its chief J.B. Larma alias Shantu Larma, would be ready to meet government representatives anytime during the second week of October.

No further details were available.

At Monday's meeting, a four-member tribal team led by Ushaton Talukder represented the PCJS while the government was represented by a six-member liasion team headed by Hangsadhar Chakma, officials said.

In the past there have been several liason committee meetings, but no tangible outcome has ever been reached.

The rebels are demanding tribal autonomy and the expulsion of Bengali-speaking Muslim settlers from the rugged Bangladesh hill region.

More than 2,000 people have been killed and many others kidnapped or wounded in the continuing tribal insurgency, according to official estimates.

India

Bangladeshi Refugees Said Seeking Homeland

BK3009102792 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] The Bangladeshi refugees in India are making covert attempts to seek a separate homeland for themselves within the Indian Union, ringing alarm bells for the Government.

According to information available with the Home Ministry through the intelligence sources, the Bangladeshi refugees are working towards carving out what they call a "Swadeshi Muslim Banga Bhoomi" [separate Bengali Muslim state] within the Indian territory.

The refugee groups actively involved in the creation of separate homeland are reportedly based in the West Bengal districts of Murshidabad, Malda, Cooch Behar and parts of, 2 Parganas, although Kishan'ganj district of Bihar and certain parts of Assam are no less active.

Alarmed by this development the Centre has called a meeting of chief ministers of six states and the Lt. Governor of Delhi—all affected by the influx of Bangladeshi refugees—here on September 28 to discuss the issue threadbare and take urgent measures to send them back without reaching them any human misery.

The states which would be represented at the meeting with the Home Minister, Mr S.B.Chavan include West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Bihar and Mizoram. West Bengal and Assam bear the major brunt of the refugee influx although even a far away region like the Unon Territory of Delhi is no less affected with about a lakh of the refugees, taking shelter here.

The affected states have awoken to the problem now that their own economy is being adversely affected due to rising number of refugees coming into their region. The chief ministers of these states have sent feelers to the Centre indicating that they are willing to initiate actions to stem the tide of refugee influx once a firm decision is taken by the Centre .

On its own, the Centre has taken steps like enhanced BSF [Border Security Force] patrolling on the Indo-Bangladesh border and setting up of as many as 851 border observation posts. Sixty-three battalions of BSF have been raised to keep surveillance over 4096 km of open land border with Bangladesh.

Similarly, steps are afoot to issue identity cards to residents in border areas. The Centre is currently examining a proposal to tighten the issuance of visa to Bangladeshis.

But these measures are not considered adequate to check the influx of refugees. What is needed is active measures by the state governments who can effectively monitor the movements of the refugees from across the border. It is precisely for this reason that the states administrations are being involved, Home ministry official sources said.

The one-day meeting of the chief ministers here is expected to take a decision on concrete measures that would be necessary to check refugee influx.

The Centre is already engaged in a discussion with the Assam and Meghalaya authorities about measures to arrest infiltration. It is mostly through these two states that the refugees enter in the country.

West Bengal and Tripura have agreed to set up task forces to detect the refugees in the two states. A surprisingly large number of Bangladesh refugees have taken shelter in the two states taking benefit of their ethnic and linguistic proximity with the local residents. The Delhi meeting is expected to decide as to how the West Bengal and Tripur authorities should go about detecting the refugees and take measure to send them back.

The refugee influx started in 1971 in the wake of major political developments in the then East Pakistan leading to the creation of Bangladesh. At that time, however, the Government of India took a different approach to the issue. Since then, the refugee influx has gone on creating a massive problem for the country.

Mediatory Mission on Kashmir Issue Ruled Out

BK2909155892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] India today reiterated its stand that it will not accept any fact-finding or mediatory mission to resolve the Kashmir issue. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the disturbed situation in Kashmir is a product of external interference in support of terrorism and militancy. He asserted that the problem is not a religious one and the Organization of Islamic Confernce has no locus standii in the matter.

Finance Team's Washington Talks Assessed

BK2909112392 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Commentary by Harihar Swarupt, chief of bureau of PRESS TRUST OF INDIA]

[Text] India may or may not emerge as another economic tiger in Asia, but likening the country to the king of the jungle is manifestation of its economic strides in the last 15 months. It is also recognition of India's stability by the world's financial institutions. This is for the first time that the honor of being termed as economic tiger has been conferred by India by no less a person than Michel Camdessus, managing director of international Monetary Fund. This also sums up the extent of success achieved by the finance minister's, Dr. Manmohan Singh's, just-concluded visit to Washington and India's convincing performance at the World Bank and IMF meeting.

The results of the finance minister's talks with the heads of two financial institutions are clearly discernible. It is a sort of hat trick for India. Dr, Manmohan Singh has returned having achieved an A class rating for India, a strong endorsement of its economic reforms and assurance of monetary backing for medium-term reforms being launched by the Government next year. The thrust of the finance minister's discussion with World Bank and IMF were four-fold. They were mobilization of approval for India's medium-term strategy, mustering support for maintenance of India's share in IDA- 10 intact at 15 percent, support for River Narmada Sardar Sarovar [hydro-electric] project, and also get backing of key donors for India's approach to Extended Fund Facility [EFF]. Apparently, the strategy has been successful. Dr. Manmohan Singh and his able team of officers succeeded in convincing the monteray institutions big- wigs that India's reforms were on track and that there would be no reversal. India can now hope that IMF's medium-term Extended Fund Fcaility next year with a sizeable content of low-cost funds from the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility [ESAF]. Talks on India's possible use of EFS and ESAF went off well. Also, India's share of IDA-10 is unlikely to be reduced from its current 15 percent.

Observations of the IMF chief that there are plenty of things for which India and its government have to be praised are significant in the present context. India's is the world's leading low income country at present. China may be more populous, but it has at least a third less objectively poor people than India. Despite this, India is not seen as another destitute nation. Mr. Camdessus's assurance to India's Finance minister was loud and clear. He said: I can tell you we look forward for a new stage which would cover a medium-term package for India which would strengthen its structural reforms while continuing the going for a kind of high quality growth. On his part, Dr. Manmohan Singh and his team held discussions with heads of IMF and World Bank and several key figures in the two institutions. Dr. Singh found full international support to India's on-going economic reforms and an assurance of financial assistance. He described the attitude of the World Bank and IMF as upbeat.

The Narmada project and the opposition mounted by some U.S.-based environmental groups were mentioned in the talks. Some of these groups are demanding that further work on the project should be terminated. They are pressurizing the United States and other governments to disallow further support to the project. Dr. Singh explained to World Bank President Mr. Louis Preston and others if they were seriously interested in eradicating poverty, the project should be continued. The project will benefit the drought prone areas in the states of Gujarat and western Madhya Pradesh. The

finance minister also told the World Bank that the Government of India has concrete plans for resettlement and rehabilitation of people likley to be uprooted as a result of the Narmada River Valley project. He assured the World Bank that India has been taking all legitimate steps to tackle the environmental issues relating to project.

During his visit, Dr. Manmohan Singh met the finance ministers of Japan, Germany and the Netherlands. He had also talks with the U.S. treasury secretary, Mr. Nicholas Brady. The outcome of the finance minister's crucial Washington visit is amply summed up by Mr. Camdessus himself saying we look forward to India becoming a tiger.

Article Favors Nuclear Submarine Production

BK2909105992 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Sep 92 p 11

[Second Installment of Article by Vice-Admiral K.K. Nayyar entitled: "Maritime Defence-II; Funds No Hurdle"]

[Text] The size and shape of the Navy that would meet India's needs in the foreseeable future are constrained by several factors. These include the need for sufficient forces to deploy on either seaboard and in all weather conditions, the capacity of our shipyards and associated industries to produce the required hardware and, of course, the resources that are likely to be available. The vast ocean area including our outlying islands in support of which the Navy must be deployed is an important aspect which cannot be ignored. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are nearly 800 miles away from the mainland and are sustained logistically only through the sea routes. Also, most ships must be able to operate in all weather conditions and for reasonably long periods and must have weapons and sensors suited for a variety of roles.

A frigate or destroyer is the smallest unit which meet these requirements. Such ships are also well suited for exploitation in less-than war situations (as during Operation Cactus in the Maldives in 1988) and in relief and rescue roles. Corvettes are smaller and built for specific roles e.g. anti-submarine in which profile they are just as capable. They also cost much less. Frigates and corvettes constitute the main workhorses at sea and have both visibility and presence when deployed in support of diplomacy.

Keeping in mind the outlying islands, another capability needed is that of sea lift for which specialised amphibious ships are required. Add to these some support ships such as tankers, training ships, submarine rescue vessels etc. which can be more cheaply leased from trade than built, some missile boats which are suitable for operations close to the coast and for raids on targets not too far away and a few patrol vessels to maintain vigil over our large Exclusive Economic Zone, and minesweepers to keep our main harbours safe, and the surface fleet is complete. Then come the submarines. Being vessels of stealth, they play a crucial role in denying the use of the sea to the enemy. Modern submarines are fitted with anti-ship missiles in addition to torpedoes and are potent weapons of war. No credible Navy can do without submarines.

A vessel which has been left out so far is the capital ship. In our context, aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines fall in this category. The former's main strength comes from its fighter aircraft. Without it, air superiority in the "battlefield area" can never be obtained. It is also not quite as vulnerable as made out to be. First, its aircraft ensure that the 'enemy' is engaged far away. Even if actually hit, it has much greater survivability against anti-ship missiles than the smaller ships.

The nuclear submarine falls in a different class. Though it becomes a strategic asset when fitted with long range ballistic missiles, it is a vastly improved version of the conventional submarines. Such submarines can help raise the threshold against hostile intervention by a superior opponent. Not amenable to detection by satellites they can be deployed for prolonged periods underwater. The aim should be to ultimately build the aircraft carriers and the nuclear propelled submarines indigenously.

Our ship-building capacity has grown considerably over the years. At least two shipyards can build frigates, corvettes and missile boats. Submarine construction is feasible at Bombay.

The aircraft carrier has not been built within the country so far but "prima facie", the ship can be built at the Cochin Shipyard. The yard can produce a frigate and a submarine every 18 months, and one each of a corvette, missile boat and patrol vessel/minesweeper every year. Amphibious ships (about 5,000 tonnes) can be built in four years and a capital ship like the Aircraft Carrier in 10 years. We should be able to construct a nuclear submarine in eight years after the various technologies involved have been mastered.

Given a lifespan of 25 years for frigates, submarines and corvettes, 17 each of the first two and 25 of the third category can thus be sustained on an ongoing basis. For the smaller ships having a lifespan of 20 years, a strength of 20 of each types can be kept going. Five amphibian's can be maintained along with six capital ships, with a lifespan of 30 years. Support ships can be leased from trade. A force level of about 115 ships can be sustained at the existing rate of production which can certainly be improved upon. As far as financial resources are concerned, Defence allocation, if stepped up at 10 per cent per year (zero real growth), would reach Rs [rupees] 21,125 crore in 1994-95. The Navy's share—at 14 per cent—comes to Rs 3,000 crore approximately at 1994-95 price level and can be used as the basis for assessing minimum force level possibilities.

The Navy spends 43 per cent of its budget on maintenance which leaves Rs 1,710 crore for capital investment

on new ships, submarines, aircraft and infrastructure. Requirements for ship- building (for a force level of 115 ships) amount to Rs 1,275 crore annually. Another Rs 320 crore is needed every year for procurement of aircraft. Allowing Rs 150 crore annually for new infrastructure, the total comes to Rs 1,745 crore. Thus, the force level feasible within existing shipyard capacity is also achievable with no real growth in monetary resources.

How many ships do we need? Japan has only a "Maritime Self- Defence Force", but it operates 210 ships including 20 submarines and 65 frigates/destroyers and corvettes along with other ships. It has no known enemy and its coastline is less than one half of ours. China operates as many as 220 ocean-going vessels including 92 submarines (five nuclear) and over 60 frigates/ destroyers. Acquisition of aircraft carriers is being planned. So obviously India needs a force of some size. In 1964, the Emergency Committee of the Cabinet envisaged a Navy of good size comprising a couple of aircraft carriers and cruisers and a fairly large number of frigates/destroyers, corvettes and submarines. These figures have not been updated in the last 30 years. Things have changed a great deal and it is time for the political leadership to stipulate firm force levels again.

To meet additional commitments in the near future, a 125-ship Navy comprising 5-6 capital ships, 5 support ships, 5 amphibious vessels, 25 each of frigates and corvettes, and 20 each of submarines, missile boats and patrol vessels/minesweepers should be adequate and achievable. By 2025, we must have a 200-ship Navy. India needs a strong and credible Navy to meet its security needs. This is achievable within the existing constraints. All that is needed is a clear vision and unambiguous political direction.

Iran

'Doubts' Expressed About 'Abu Dhabi's Goodwill'

LD3009084592 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 30 Sep 92

["Iran Regrets UAE Stance on Abu Musa, Doubts Abu Dhabi's Goodwill"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry in a statement here Wednesday [30 September] regretted that the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in the talks on Abu Musa island, by "abusing Iran's good-will," had brought the process of the negotiations to a standstill.

An Iranian delegation headed by Foreign Ministry Director General Mostafa Ha'eri-Fumani held three rounds of negotiations on Abu Musa island with UAE authorities in Abu Dhabi earlier this week. The talks were to be continued in Tehran later.

"Due to the importance that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to preservation and expansion of friendly ties with the neighbouring countries and to the stability of the region, it employed its efforts to remove the misunderstandings created between the Sharjah ruler and the Iranian authorities on Abu Musa island since the emergence of the issue related to non-Sharjah residents of Abu Musa."

The statement added that the Iranian delegation started the negotiations with the view that the region needs tranquility now more than any other time and that understanding and good neighbourly relations must form the basis of relations among the Persian Gulf littoral states. It also hoped that the other side will adopt a similar stand towards the issue.

"But unfortunately in bilateral talks the UAE side, by raising unprincipled issues irrelevant to the questions on Abu Musa and through abusing the good-will and tolerance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stopped the process of the negotiations, a fact which brings under suspicion the reality of the claim on existence of problems in Abu Musa."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the UAE attitude towards the question and its release of a hasty statement terming the negotiations as useless, is against the interest of bilateral relations, and raising any territorial claim in the region can lead to a series of fresh claims and differences which would have detrimental consequences for the security of the region and would solely meet the desires of the foreigners."

The Foreign Ministry statement in conclusion reiterated Iran's inalterable policy towards Abu Musa island and announced Tehran's readiness to continue the negotiations to settle the issue on the basis of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, good- neighbourly relations and preservation of tranquility and security in the region.

Velayati Comments on Abu Musa, General Assembly

LD2909193592 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1415 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati returned to Tehran last night, winding up a tour to New York to take part in the 47th session of the UN General Assembly.

Upon his return, Mr. Velayati spoke with our correspondent about the outcome of the gathering and some current issues facing Iran.

[Begin Velayati recording in English] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful: I have participated in the 47th session of General Assembly and delivered my speech. In my speech I have covered many issues, including the question of recent development of the Persian Gulf; specifically in connection with the Abu Musa island affairs. In my talks with others in New York, we have expressed the clear position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and we have said that we haven't changed our position. And we are committed to the

agreement which we have signed with the other side in 1971, and there is no change in our position, and if there is any small problem, this problem could be solved between the Islamic Republic of Iran and United Arab Emirates.

Fortunately, now our director-general—I mean the director-general of the Foreign Ministry—is there in the United Arab Emirates, and he is talking with his counterpart. It is hoped that they will reach a constructive and fruitful result.

In this General Assembly, the decision was made with majority of votes. They have decided to expel Serbia and Montenegro, and they haven't accepted Serbia and Montenegro as the successor of the former Socialist Federal Yugoslavia. And now Serbia and Montenegro is out of the United Nations. If they want to be a member of the United Nations they have to reapply for that.

Beside our participation in the General Assembly, we have met with about 50 heads of state and foreign ministers of other countries. In our discussions, we have talked about the bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and these countries, and also the international development. Because the majority of the foreign ministers of the Muslim countries were there, an extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the Muslim countries was held there, and the majority of the problems in the Islamic world were discussed there.

After the collapse of communism and the former Soviet Union and socialist bloc, and also the Persian Gulf crisis, there is a big change in the international arena. And I have to say that because of these important developments, now this General Assembly is a turning point in the history of the United Nations. [end recording]

Afghan Leader Rabbani Makes High-Level Contacts

Khamene'i Reiterates Support

LD2909125992 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday underlined Iran's support for the Islamic government of Afghanistan and said that the establishment of an Islamic state in that country was an outcome of the resistance and endeavours of the Muslim Afghan people.

The leader made the remark in a meeting with the president of the Afghan interim government Borhanoddin Rabbani who later left here for the holy city of Mashhad, capital of the border province of Khorasan.

Pointing to common religious and cultural points between the two nations, Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that Iranians regarded the resistant Afghan people as their brethren and supported their legitimate struggles.

The leader stated that establishment of Islamic systems and hoisting of the flag of Islam anywhere in the world would be a threat to international imperialism.

He urged the Muslim Afghan people to avoid ethnic and religious disputes and preserve their unity and solidarity and curtail the hands of enemies by identifying them.

The leader also called on the officials of the interim government and leaders of Afghan mojahidin to remain vigilant vis-a-vis plots and seditions of the enemies of Islam and wished them success in undertaking their responsibilities. Rabbani briefed the leader on the situation in Afghanistan and the current problems stemming from the recent clashes in the country.

He referred to Iran as a base inspiring hope in the hearts of Muslims throughout the world and hailed its support for the struggles of the Afghan Muslim people.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was also present at the meeting.

Talks Termed 'Very Fruitful'

LD2909152892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The president of Afghanistan left Tehran this morning. He was seen off officially by our country's president. Before leaving Tehran, Borhanoddin Rabbani gave an exclusive interview with us in which he expressed delight at his trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran and with his meetings and talks with the eminent leader Ayatollah Khamene'i and other high-ranking officials of our country. He termed as very fruitful the outcome of his talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran's political and economic officials. He said: Fortunately, because of the Islamic Republic of Iran's special concern for the problems of Afghanistan, during this trip different political, economic, and cultural issues, as well as Afghanistan's current problems, important world and regional issues, notably the reconstruction and rebuilding of Afghanistan, were discussed and the two sides, reached agreement and arrived at some positive results. Thus it is hoped that Afghanistan may be able to benefit from the useful experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran and take some effective steps toward reconstruction and rebuilding.

Our country's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in turn, in an exclusive interview with us, expressed satisfaction at the talks conducted between the high-ranking delegation from Afghanistan and the officals of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He described these talks as a positive and useful step toward the expansion of cooperation. He pointed to Afghanistan's past problems and the current difficulties facing that country and noted: the rebuilding of the destruction left by the war and the seditious misdeeds of some of the groups which inflicted a lot of damage on that country, especially on the city of Kabul, on the one hand, and rebuilding the various sectors of

Afghanistan, on the other, pose two important and essential problems facing the people and government of Afghanistan. And these problems cannot be easily eliminated without assistance and help from that country's neighbors.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also pointed to the unstinting assistance given by the Islamic Republic of Iran to Afghan mojahedin and refugees during the length of the past 14 years in their struggle against the communist regime. He said: Even though we are in the process of reconstructing the destruction of our own country and although the noble people of Afghanistan do not expect too much from us, we will nevertheless do everything we can to assist the meek and Muslim people of Afghanistan with their reconstruction efforts. But the United Nations has more responsibility with regard to the question of the reconstruction of that country because Afghanistan was destroyed in the course of the past 14 years under the gaze of the United Nations.

At the end of this interview, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that with the trip taken by Mr. Rabbani to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the pace of bilateral cooperation may increase.

Ahmad Khomeyni Calls for Armed Forces Readiness

LD2909150192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The promotion ceremony for the commanders and personnel of the Protection Corps took place in the presence of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at Jamaran Mosque before noon today. [passage omitted]

Pointing to the conspiracies of the big powers against the Islamic system, Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: These powers through their sensationalism attempt to tarnish the reputation of the Islamic system. In spite of the fact that there has been no change in the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy with regard to its neighbors, every day they find a pretext for establishing distrust, hence turning the situation to their advantage.

At the end of his speech, Ahmad Khomeyni stressed: We never intend to violate anyone else's territory, nor do we allow enemies and ill-wishers to have any design on our territory. The armed forces must be ready for defense, and act if the enemies transgress.

West, Iraq Said Contributing to Shiite Misery

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[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—A morning daily in a political commentary Tuesday noted that apparently the West's 'no fly' zone in southern Iraq and Baghdad's brutality against the Shiite Muslims there, have jointly contributed to further intensification of poverty and misery of the inhabitants of the area.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said that the Ba'athists were not reluctant to entrap some seven million Shiite Muslims in the area below the 32nd parallel and let them gradually die by imposing a land siege and preventing food, water and medicine from reaching them.

It added that many foodstuff and medicine stores had been transferred to the northern side of the parallel and that goods entering the roads along the parallel would be confiscated.

Moreover, the paper said, the Iraqi regime had transferred all the bank assets of the people in the south to Baghdad and in confidential circulars had instructed the banks to transfer their assets to bank 'Al-Rafidayn' and its branches.

"Presently, people in southern Iraq are facing a gradual poverty, a policy which was adopted by the Westerners in early 1989 under the pretext of suppressing the aggressor Baghdad regime. This resulted in the perishing of a large number of people, especially children," it added.

The policy of the U.S. and its Western allies, both in northern and southern Iraq, was supposed to be to protect the lives and properties of the people, the article said, but regretted that in reality no practical measure had so far been taken against the brutal aggressions of the Baghdad regime in those areas.

"This is one side of the coin while the other side is annihilation of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction as well factories and centers where banned chemical weapons are being produced. The objective behind this step is to maintain the zionist regime's military supremacy in the Middle East and weaken the potential threats against Tel Aviv," noted the daily.

The article concluded by saying that these tragic events show that the government of Saddam Husayn and the decision-makers in the U.S are jointly choking the throat of the oppressed Iraqi people to death.